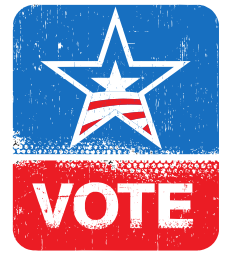




# A.P. United States History

## Writing an Intellectual Diary (I.D.)

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### Tips to remember when you're writing:

- Avoid the use of personal pronouns (I, me, my, etc.)
- Write in the past tense (history has already occurred)
- Avoid the use of absolutes (always & never - these quickly derail your argument)
- Use and spell the correct words and homophones: a lot, to, two, too, their, they're, there, knew, new, by, bye, except, accept, etc.
- NEVER use the words/phrase: As you can see, might, may have, could have, should have - you are writing an argument, therefore your verbiage needs to make a strong statement.
- Write out full names of individuals (these people are not your friends)
- NEVER end with "And that's why we are where we are today."

### Steps to writing an Intellectual Diary (I.D.)

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- A.** Make an **ASSERTION** (this is your thesis - a statement that can be argued and must take a side).  
↳ **Example:** Abraham Lincoln was the most influential president of all of America's history.
- C.** **CITE** specific facts and evidence that support your assertion (include full names, dates, terms, specific documents and/or ideas by using action verbs, such as: claim, argue, believe, issue, etc.)  
↳ **Example:** On January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that any individual who was held as a slave under Confederate control was declared free.
- E.** **EXPLAIN** your specific facts and state *why* they are important. (Remember **HAPP**: **H**istorical context, **A**udience, **P**urpose or **P**oint of view.)  
↳ **Example:** While this was a shift in the right direction for some, individuals who were enslaved in border states that remained loyal to the Union continued to be suppressed.
- S.** Explain the **SIGNIFICANCE**. How does this answer the little picture question (small part) and the big picture question (the entire unit/period)?  
↳ **Example:** Lincoln's efforts had little effect on freeing the slaves; rather, the bigger effect allowed Black Americans to serve in the Union army for the first time ever, which began to pave the way for freedom for all.

## Student Sample - Compare/Contrast

**Question:** Identify the reasons Martin Luther challenged the church.

A. Although one of Martin Luther's reasons for challenging the church was indulgences, the abuse of the Pope's political authority was more significant. C. For instance, Martin Luther's *Ninety Five Theses* (1517) argues the negative impact of indulgences on the people misleading them into believing they can receive spiritual salvation through temporal means. Luther's standing with the church remained in a completely respectful manner, resisting challenging the power structure of the church, save but the aspect of indulgences (Doc A). On the other hand, Luther's *Table Talks* (1535) provides and argues a more full view of Luther's arguments against the church's authority. E. Luther had been excommunicated from the Church at this point, and had fully exercised his views on Church authority outside of indulgences, like the Bible as the only source of religious truth. S. The Reformation was able to challenge the church's status quo and fully establish a new way of thinking outside of the Church's fully religious, fully filtered views of Europe and the world.

### Did You Notice?

A. The assertion is clear and can be argued.

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There are specific document titles/dates supporting the assertion.

C. The use of the transitional phrase (Example: "On the other hand, ...")

The use of an action verb (claims, argues, believes, issues, supports, etc.)

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E. There is a clear explanation of the two facts/documents (*Ninety Five Theses* & Luther's *Table Talks*) and what each represented.

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S. There is a 1 sentence statement supporting the assertion by restating a specific point of what the Reformation stood for.

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Although one of Martin Luther's reasons for challenging the church was indulgences, the abuse of the Pope's political authority was more significant. For instance, Martin Luther's *Ninety Five Theses* (1517) argues the negative impact of indulgences on the people misleading them into believing they can receive spiritual salvation through temporal means. Luther's standing with the church remained in a completely respectful manner, resisting challenging the power structure of the church, save but the aspect of indulgences (Doc A). On the other hand, Luther's *Table Talks* (1535) provides and argues a more full view of Luther's arguments against the church's authority. Luther had been excommunicated from the Church at this point, and had fully exercised his views on Church authority outside of indulgences, like the Bible as the only source of religious truth. The Reformation was able to challenge the church's status quo and fully establish a new way of thinking outside of the Church's fully religious, fully filtered views of Europe and the world.