

Essay Outline Planning Materials for Unit IV Exam Essay: The Cold War

Your exam grade will be determined by

Essay Outline—50%

Essay Exam written in class—50%

You are answering two questions:

1. From 1945-1989, how much of a real threat was the Soviet Union to American safety and security?
2. How responsibly did America act and react during the Cold War? (In other words, how responsibly did America balance collective safety and personal freedom in reacting to the USSR?)

In order to answer them like a good historian, you first must collect your evidence so you can evaluate it. These outline planning sheets will help you collect evidence for 4 topic sentences:

- 1a. The USSR was a legitimate threat to America's safety and security.
- 1b. The USSR was not a legitimate threat to America's safety and security.
- 2a. America acted and reacted responsibly during the Cold War.
- 2b. America acted and reacted irresponsibly during the Cold War.

Your process to an A essay:

1. Collect evidence from each president's term to support each topic sentence. Evidence can be facts/historical events—be sure to use the content lists in your unit outline!—and quotes from readings.
2. As soon as you notice themes emerging in your evidence—in other words, many pieces of evidence relates to the same big idea—start naming your themes and grouping your evidence together.
3. Start practicing how you will interpret your evidence—how you will explain in your essay how each piece of evidence relates to its theme, proves its topic sentence, and proves your overall thesis.
4. Weigh the evidence and make your conclusions. You will write only two of the four paragraphs you plan in your actual exam essay.

TOPIC SENTENCE 1A: The USSR was a **legitimate threat** to America's safety and security as shown by __ (THEME 1) __, __ (THEME 2) __, and __ (THEME 3) __.

List evidence—facts/events from content lists and quotes from readings here

When you begin to notice themes emerging in your evidence, name your themes and group the evidence together that goes together.

THEME 1 _____ THEME 2 _____ THEME 3 _____

TOPIC SENTENCE 2A: America acted and reacted **responsibly** during the Cold War as shown by __ (THEME 1) __, __ (THEME 2) __, and __ (THEME 3) __.

List evidence—facts/events from content lists and quotes from readings here

When you begin to notice themes emerging in your evidence, name your themes and group the evidence together that goes together.

THEME 1

THEME 2

THEME 3

