

## Five-Paragraph Essay Question:

WHG Rev. 2/25/11

After Christopher Columbus sailed to the West Indies, the conquest and colonization of the New World began. Based on the evidence you have seen, what was the main reason that Spain wished to establish colonies in America? Support your opinion with evidence from primary and secondary sources. Are you confident you have identified Spain's main reason for colonization? Why or why not?

### Basic steps in writing a five-paragraph essay to answer an essay question:

- a. Carefully read the question.
- b. Find the requirements, and decide how you will answer them in the middle 3 paragraphs.
- c. Paragraph 1: This is the introductory paragraph. 1st) Find the topic sentence of the question, and use it or paraphrase it. 2nd) State the main idea of your essay in a thesis statement. 3rd) briefly summarize the main points you will make in the next three paragraphs. 4th) Try to have a transition word, phrase, or sentence between paragraphs.
- d. Paragraphs 2, 3, 4: This is the meat of the essay. Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence similar to how you described this paragraph in the introduction. Follow with supporting sentences.
- e. Paragraph 5: This is the conclusion of the essay. Begin by restating your thesis, and then state how your main points supported the thesis.

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### Essay Question Evaluation Form

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grading: \_\_\_\_\_ =  
100 points

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#### Grading criteria:

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| Essay has five paragraphs including introduction and conclusion | Yes | No |
| All paragraphs begin with appropriate topic sentence            | Yes | No |
| Supporting sentences explain the topic sentence                 | Yes | No |
| Correct use of capital letters and punctuation                  | Yes | No |
| Proper spelling and grammar                                     | Yes | No |
| Essay is typed and double spaced                                | Yes | No |
| Clear sentences   | Yes | No |
| All requirements of the question are met                        | Yes | No |
| Information is accurate   | Yes | No |
| Essay demonstrates thought and good understanding               | Yes | No |