

AP Government – FRQ Thesis Example
Argument Essay – How to write an Introduction/Thesis

Don't just restate the prompt... include the following:

- Put the prompt in to your own words, some re-stating allowed:
- Choose a side:
- Tell me why:
- What is the other side's claim?
- Why is yours better?
- 1-2-3

For example:

During a recent Presidential campaign, Congressional term limits were a topic, similar to term limits imposed on the office of the president by the 22nd amendment. Develop an argument for or against an amendment imposing term limits on members of Congress.

- Begin with the prompt (short restate of it): **An amendment imposing term limits on members of Congress**
- Choose a side: **is directly opposed to the ideas of the Constitution.**
- Tell me why: **because there were no term limits written into the Constitution for any of the three branches and it would take the rights away from the voters to choose who they want to represent them.**
- What is the other side's claim? **Although many critics believe that Congress is corrupt and needs term limits to bring it back to the people,**
- Why is yours better? **the people, according to James Madison, need to be vigilant. This means that the government should not have the power to impose limits on terms of Congress.**
- The best evidence for this is: **Required Document (1), topic 2 (2), and topic 3 (3).**

Example:

An amendment imposing term limits on members of Congress is directly opposed to the ideas of the Constitution. This is because there were no term limits written into the Constitution for any of the three branches and it would take the rights away from the voters to choose who they want to represent them. Although many critics believe that Congress is corrupt and needs term limits to bring it back to the people, the people, according to James Madison, need to be vigilant. This means that the government should not have the power to impose limits on terms of Congress. The best evidence for this includes _____ (1) , _____, (2) and _____ (3).

1, 2, and 3 become your body paragraph topics.

Format:

- I.** Introduction/Thesis – see above
- II.** Body Paragraphs
 - a. Topic 1 – provide examples (from history/government)
 - b. Topic 2 – provide examples (from history/government)
 - c. Topic 3 – provide examples (from history/government)
- III.** Conclusion – re-state your thesis