

# HISTORIAN'S TOOLBOX

## Social Studies Body Paragraph Expectations

### **Organization and structure:**

- Indent the first sentence.
- Keep paragraph within 6-8 sentences.
- Organize paragraph as follows: topic sentence, ICE method, concluding sentence. For ICE method: use evidence once then explain/analyze in depth in several sentences.

(unless it is a summary paragraph: main idea followed by supporting details)

### **Grammar and punctuation:**

- Do not use run-on or incomplete sentences.
- Capitalize proper nouns and words at the beginning of each sentence.
- End sentences with a period, or occasionally, a question mark; never use exclamation points.
- Do not use first or second person pronouns such as I, we, our, you, me, my.
- Do not use any abbreviations such as &, b/c, w/, govt. ok, BTW, 1<sup>st</sup>, ½, @.
- Always spell out numbers zero through nine. Use digits for 10 and above.

### **Content and ideas:**

- Respond directly to the prompt and stay on topic.
- Include specific details in each sentence, such as explaining who, what, where, when, why, and/or how.
- Use appropriate transitions to connect ideas/sentences.
- Correctly use several strong content and academic vocabulary words.

