

Example of a quality short essay that include citation of sources:

**Essential Question: Which colonial region was the most important?**

**Topic Sentence/Answer to the question**

The area known as the “middle colonies” was the most important region during

America’s colonial period. **One reason** it was the most important is because some the

**most important ideas** related to the American culture first **began in this region.** **Reason**

**Citation**

**#1**

According to Document A, **the Enlightenment belief** that everyone has a right to

**Quote**

“life, liberty, and the pursuit of property” **first took hold in this region.** These ideas would

**Explanation**

**eventually spread to other colonies and help to ignite the American Revolution.** **Another**

**reason** the middle colonies were the most important is because that region was the

**Citation**

**Quote**

**Reason**

**most socially diverse.** According to Document B, it had the “greatest amount of **religious**

**#2**

**and racial diversity**”. Furthermore, in the middle colonies, a person’s ranking in **society**

**Quote**

**Citation**

was “**based on a person’s own qualities** or contributions” (Document D) instead of their

**Explanation**

wealth or family connections. These ideas are important to how Americans view each

**Conclusion**

other even today. **By far, the middle colonies were the most important.**