

Olean High School

Starting Lineup of History Writing

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|  | Rule | Suggestions |
| 1 | Start with an Outline | * Construction starts with a blueprint, essays should as well
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| 2 | Build around a central idea | * Have a thesis that demonstrates an insightful, interpretive question(s)
* Facts and details should always support the main ideas clearly
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| 3 | K.I.S.S.Keep It Simple Student | * Clarity over cuteness
* Never use more words than necessary when you can make your point clearer with fewer words
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| 4 | Write in the past tense | * Press CTRL F and search for ing to double check you remained in the past tense
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| 5 | No personal pronouns! | * Mr. Perry reads: “In this essay I will show . . .”
* Mr. Perry’s interpretation: “You have already shot your grade in the toe!”
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| 6 | When in doubt, cite | * Cite EVERY quotation, paraphrase, or idea that did not come out of your own head
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| 7 | Write as if your reader is intelligent – but totally uninformed | * Identify all persons, organizations, etc
* Establish time, place, context
* Only provide facts
* Do not use a passive voice
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| 8 | No Contractions | * Do not - Don’t
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| 9 | Do not save your real points for the conclusion | * When you go out for dinner you have judged the establishment well before dessert, I have judged your overall essay before the conclusion.
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|  | PROOF READ! | * PROOF READ!
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