



Developing | Exemplar Essay

Local and Global Powers

Struggles for Power



Claim and Focus

A claim is made that is based on the topic ("These two powerful nations made alliances with other countries to help them own the territories and trade routes needed to win the war"). The essay focuses too narrowly on alliances, neglecting to address trade routes or other issues, and does not fulfill the demands of the task.



Analysis and Evidence

Six of the nine sources are referenced, though quoted evidence is imbalanced and does not sufficiently support ideas presented in the claim. Explanations offer minimal reasoning and do not adequately tie the support to the claim ("The British didn't need to compromise because their army was so strong that they eventually defeated every country they fought against").



Organization

A basic organizational structure is employed, though relationships between and among ideas are not consistently clear. Use of transitions is basic and sparse ("but," "also," "so," "While"), and the conclusion is not adequately developed to support the analysis.



Language and Style

Some precise language is used ("domination" and "alliances"), but a formal style is not maintained throughout ("the British were too powerful to beat and that's why they became the global leader"). Attempts are made to vary sentence structure, though it is sometimes repetitive ("France made an alliance," "France also made an alliance"), and some errors interfere with meaning ("France made an alliance with Bengal but when the British defeated them...").



Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait 'looks like' in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see "25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays" by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

Local and Global Powers



Struggles for Power

In the 1700s, European struggles for global power were connected to regional issues. Several countries were at war with each other, and France and Britain were battling for global domination. These two powerful nations made alliances with other countries to help them own the territories and trade routes needed to win the war. France made an alliance with Bengal but when the British defeated them, they took over their army and resources and became more powerful. "Mir Jafar and the East India Company will enter into an alliance with the Mughal Empire, against all enemies, including other Europeans such as the French" (Doc 1). In this example, the British now owned the Bengal army and could use it against the French. France also made an alliance with the Ottawa Indians in the new world. In Doc 7, the chief calls the French "our brothers" and explains how the British laughed at their dead and they "only seeks to destroy us." He was attempting to convince his people to fight with the French so they could defeat the British together.

Other countries made alliances to defend themselves, like Austria and Saxony who were allies with the French against the Prussians (Doc 3). And the Native Americans made alliances with each other to fight the British. "My brothers, we Catholic Indians from New York thank you Indians from the Great Lakes region for helping us defend our territory against the British who wish to usurp these lands" (Doc 2). The British had alliances with the Prussians and Spanish and the Bengals after their defeat. The British didn't need to compromise because their army was so strong that they eventually defeated every country they fought against. The two documents that show this are 5 and 6.

While the French made alliances to help them fight the war, the British were too powerful to beat and as a result they became the global leader. A document that would help to support this is a timeline showing the battles that the British won.

