

The Role of Economics in Relocating the Oklahoma State Capital: Using the Five-Paragraph Essay

About this lesson

Grade Level: High School

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Time: One to three class periods

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Brief Lesson Description Students will research the events associated with the relocation of the capital from Guthrie to Oklahoma City through primary source documents and write a five-paragraph essay describing the economic motivations of those involved in the conflict.

Time

- Instruction – 10 to 20 minutes
- Research – 50 to 100 minutes (can be done outside class time)
- Essay Writing – 50 to 100 minutes (can be done outside class time)

Suggested Primary Source Documents

- The Oklahoma Enabling Act (background)
- Newspaper Articles (motivations) – *The Oklahoman* Archives can be accessed at www.newsok.com – Click on Archives and then click on Search.

High School Oklahoma History PASS Objectives Correlations

- Standard 1 – Students will demonstrate process skills in social studies.
 - Students will analyze primary source documents.
 - Students will interpret information from a broad selection of research materials.
- Standard 5 – Students will describe the development of constitutional government in Oklahoma.
 - Students will analyze the impact and influence of the Enabling Act.
- Standard 8 – Students will examine the factors that contributed to the political, economic, and social history of Oklahoma during the twentieth century.

Procedure

1. Review with the students the story of the movement of the Oklahoma state capital from Guthrie to Oklahoma City.
2. Teach the students how to structure a five-paragraph essay using Handout 1.
3. Explain the concept of economic motivation to the students.
4. Review the writing prompt in Handout 1 with the students.
5. Provide students with access to the primary source documents and time to research.

Closure

When the essays are complete have students explain some of the economic motivations they found in their research. Prompt a discussion about the importance of economics in understanding the truth about history. For example, most students remember that the motivations for exploration were God, gold, and glory. Ask them which was the strongest of these motives and why. Have students consider economic motivations in other the other events that have shaped the state's history.

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Handout 1

Writing Prompt: Review the primary source documents associated with the movement of the Oklahoma State Capital from Guthrie to Oklahoma City and write a properly structure five-paragraph essay describing three economic motivations associated with the conflict. The Daily Oklahoman Archives can be accessed at www.newsok.com – Click on Archives and then on Search.



Social Studies Five-Paragraph Essay

- Paragraph 1 – Introduction
 - It includes a **thesis statement**. A thesis statement is what the essay is going to argue or demonstrate. It is the basis for the essay. It is a statement that can be seen as true or false. Everything written in the essay must be linked to the thesis.
 - It includes a **listing of the three points** to be argued in the essay.
- Paragraph 2 – An explanation of **point number 1**
- Paragraph 3 – An explanation of **point number 2**
- Paragraph 4 – An explanation of **point number 3**
- Paragraph 5 – Conclusion
 - It includes a **summary of your argument** in favor of the thesis statement.
- NOTES:
 - Essays of this type do not use first-person (*I, me, my, . . .*). It is understood that the ideas and opinions are the writer's.
 - Paragraphs typically have at least five sentences.
 - Proper spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation must be used.
 - Do not plagiarize.



Courtroom Analogy

- Think like a lawyer in court when writing an essay of this type.
 - Paragraph 1 is your opening statement to the jury in which you briefly state your case and list the points that you will use to prove your case.
 - Paragraph 2 is where you provide evidence supporting your first argument point.
 - Paragraph 3 is where you provide evidence supporting your second argument point.
 - Paragraph 4 is where you provide evidence supporting your third argument point.
 - Paragraph 5 is your closing statement in which you convince the jury of the legitimacy of your case.

Due Date: _____