

## WRITING DEVELOPMENT

**RULE #1:** If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

### Conflict with the Indigenous Nations – Events

#### 20. Importance II – measuring importance

In Writing Development exercise #16 on Homesteaders Problems and Solutions, you learned the key phrases: “as a result...”, “therefore...”, “consequently...”, “because of this...”; the two sentences: “This was [modifier] because...” and “This was of [modifier] importance because...”; and a large number of ‘modifiers of importance’ -- *considerably, hugely, indispensably, particularly, profoundly, very / inconsequential, lesser, limited, little, minor, slight, some*. To address the issue of importance, however, you will need to address: ‘HOW important?’

Your teachers may have taught you Partington’s taxonomy, or a mnemonic such as: ‘GREAT’, the ‘5Rs’ or ‘NAME’. **If they have, follow their advice.**

What I would suggest, however, for the questions you are likely to meet in your exam, is that you should look at the event’s/development’s results and think about:

- **AT?:** How was it regarded *AT THE TIME* (how did people react)?
- **BG?:** With the benefit of hindsight, *HOW BIG* were the consequences?
- **LL?:** With the benefit of hindsight, *HOW LONG-LASTING* were the results (a few years/ centuries/ still today)?

Finishing with an overall comment on:

- **TP?:** Was the event/development a *TURNING POINT* (changed the direction of history, or would its results have happened anyway)?

Let’s say I have want to write about the importance for the Sioux of **the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868**. I study the webpage, see the consequences, and build an ideas plan.

1. Fill the gaps, so as to complete the ideas plan:

Conjunction	Consequence	Ideas for explanation + Proving information	Modifier = Judgement
The first...	→ Great Sioux reservation	AT?: Regarded as an agreement for “as long as the grass should grow” BG?: Reservations destroyed the Sioux and their way of life LL?: Reservations still exist today	profound
.....	→ the transcontinental railroads	BG?: Railroads opened up the west → gold miners & homesteaders → extermination of buffalo → destruction of the Sioux until 1970s	.....
.....	→ Red Cloud stopped fighting	AT?: Ended the war of 1866-67 → Red Cloud changed tactics LL?: .....	.....
.....	→ Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse et al kept fighting	BG?: Gave the ‘exterminators’ an excuse to press for ‘total war’ LL?: .....	.....
Finally,	.....	TP?: Would have happened anyway, as shown by: 1871 Appropriations Act/ 1873 Reservation land opened up / 1874 Custer found gold in the Black Hills.	.....

2. Build similar ‘Importance’ ideas plans for some of the other events on the webpage.