

POSITION 2

Analysis: History - Ingredients Revolution

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY:

The thesis statement is relevant to the prompt, and all assertions support the thesis. The two criteria that prevent *Position* from scoring a 3 are the defensibility of both the thesis statement and assertions, and the lack of scope in all of the assertions.

CRITERION 1: THESIS

Ideas and writing in the thesis statement are understandable. The thesis statement is *slightly* defensible. Truly defensible thesis statements can not state obvious truths, and the three ideas presented in this statement (the uniting cause, a faithful group of followers, and a determined leader) are obvious truths about revolutions that do not challenge or re-define common knowledge about revolutions. However, one could make the *slight* argument that not all revolutions need one cause or a determined leader (as with the 2011 Egyptian revolution). However, that allowance gives this writer credit for a complexity of thought that the writer has clearly not yet developed, so this would not count as defensible.

To further consider the idea of defensibility of arguments, consider the following three thesis statements about the Egyptian Revolution of 2011.

Example #1: In the “Arab Spring” of 2011, online social media played a major role in communication about the revolution.

--> this is a FACT about the revolution that is not defensible on any level; no one can dispute this statement.

Example #2: In the “Arab Spring” of 2011, communication via online social media was the primary driving force in the downfall of the current government.

--> While this statement is an improvement on the previous in that it makes an evaluative judgment about *the* defining factor of the revolution, it is still a commonly accepted fact about revolution that few people could dispute; it is a *low-level* example of a defensible thesis statement.

Example #3: In the “Arab Spring” of 2011, the unprecedented role of online social media provided a blueprint of what will be a new era of governmental change-- a successful revolution with no leader other than the voice of the masses.

--> There are several aspects of this thesis statement that make it defensible:

1. It qualifies the revolution as “successful”
2. It argues that this revolution will be a blueprint for future revolutions, rather than a fluke
3. It makes the claim that there was no real leader in the revolution; while it’s a universal truth that there is no singular, highly publicized leader in the revolution, a different writer could find a few key leaders and argue that their work was more behind the scenes.

CRITERION 2: ASSERTIONS

The assertions are understandable and support the thesis statement. The thesis statement lists the three ingredients of a revolution, and the three topic sentences each present one of the ingredients.

This essay fails to score a 3 because the assertions are not all defensible. In addition, the second assertion

fails to make an argument at all (defensible or not): “Secondly, a faithful group of followers can take the revolution very far.” This is a fact; it is not an opinion or an argument. You cannot argue the opposite (namely, that a faithful group of followers can not take a revolution very far). In addition, the first assertion is an extremely weak assertion that is *close* to basic fact. There are a few examples of the counterargument (that you do not need a leader to make a revolution), but the nuances of this type of argument are not reflected in the student’s assertion.

In order to strengthen his or her assertions, this student could articulate how the leader, people, and unity make a revolution successful, which would clarify the assertions in scope.

For the second assertion, the author could explain **WHEN** a faithful group of followers could take a revolution very far: “Once a determined leader is established within the community, a faithful group of followers provides the social, economic, and political clout to take the revolution very far.” This revision clarifies the assertion in scope.

Essay: History - Ingredients Revolution

Essay #1

Prompt: Lenin states that “any cook should be able to run the country.” If revolution is the stew and contributing factors are the ingredients, what is the recipe for revolution; namely, what are the three most significant contributing factors?

“Any cook should be able to run the country.” Lenin states that a cook could run the country in reference with the fact that there are only specific ingredients that could make a true revolution. In theory, it takes a determined leader, a faithful group of followers and one uniting cause to prepare the perfect revolution.

First off, a determined leader is needed to run a functional revolution. In Russia, Lenin inspired the people to go together and revolt. If it wasn't for him and his devotion to the cause, the people would not have succeeded in creating the nation they wanted. “The sphere from which alone it is possible to obtain this knowledge is the sphere of relationships of all classes and strata to the state and the government, the sphere of interrelations between all classes made possible by professional revolutionaries.”(V.I. Lenin) Lenin expresses the idea that in order to create and run a revolution, you need a professional and experienced leader to lead the group. Unfortunately, without one, the attempt would be futile.

Secondly, a faithful group of followers can take the revolution very far. A leader without followers would go nowhere. In order to be faithful to your revolution, you have to be prepared to do whatever it takes to get to your common goal. “The force of peasantry is like that of the raging winds and driving rain... No force can stand in its way. The peasantry will tear apart all nets which bind it and hasten along the road to liberation.”(Mao Zedong) Mao Zedong understood as a leader of the Chinese Revolution that if they were to prosper, the people supporting him would have to be determined, devoted, and be willing to follow without doubts. Without people with true faith in the cause, there will be opposition and the revolution will not thrive.

Lastly, to do well in a revolution, you have to be united and fight for one cause. When people come together as one, they can easily achieve what their goal was set to be. “In order to free ourselves of dynastic rule, we need to unite as one people.”(Sun Yixian) Sun Yixian, the former president of China, states that unity is the key to a great and powerful undefeated force known as revolution. Once everyone is on the same page, then it is easier to get something accomplished. Like Abraham Lincoln said “Together we stand. Divided we fall.”

Altogether, a trusting leader, trusting followers, and unity, are the key components to a excellent revolution. With a leader to illuminate the right path, followers to sacrifice whatever for the cause and one common goal you will see that the revolution will prosper. In any event, each of the revolutions discussed including the Chinese Revolution, the Communist Revolution in Russia and many others had these components.