

Position 6 (Set 2)

Analysis: History - FDR

Position: Thesis

This paper scores a 6 for the thesis: “Although Roosevelt denied some Americans their rights, he was effective because he gave jobs and helped business.” It is clear, defensible, and focused. The inclusion of the dependent clause makes it comprehensive of the positive and negative effects that Roosevelt had. That being said, this thesis is not analytical yet, keeping it from scoring a 7.

Essay: History - FDR

Prompt: How effective was Franklin D. Roosevelt’s response to the problems of the Great Depression?

Throughout history, great leaders have taken action to improve the well-being of citizens all over the United States; Franklin Roosevelt was one of them. During the Great Depression many people didn’t have food clothes or even housing and blamed it on Hoover. The suicide rate went up by 4%, and many banks closed down. People couldn’t sell their businesses anymore and were forced to create little houses made out of scrap parts called Hoovervilles and turned their pants pockets inside-out to make Hoover flags. Once FDR was elected he created “New Deals” that supposedly was supposed to help improve the depression but is argued that it did help the depression. Although Roosevelt denied some Americans their rights, he was effective because he gave jobs and helped business.

FDR’s plan was mostly affective because he granted many jobs through the AAA and the WPA and increased income in the government. The AAA, agricultural adjustment act, and WPA, workers progress administration, both helped with jobs for people who suffered during the Great Depression. In document D, before FDR came into power the unemployment rate was up to 12,830,000 people, and after he came in and proposed new deals 670,000 people were unemployed meaning when FDR was in power he decreased the rate by 12,160,000 people. This drastic decrease helped the citizen of the United States find a way to get their

lives back together. This also applies in document F because from 1929-1932 the economy has been losing money constantly, but in 1933 after Roosevelt is elected the economy starts to increase by an average of 5% every year. This increase in the economy proves that FDR is not only helping the people of the US but trying to improve the culture overall.

FDR's plan was somewhat ineffective because he denied multiple classifications of people their constitutional rights. With some of the new deals created, came some newfound problems like race and gender discrimination. In document C, it says that the TVA "forbade Negroes to live in Norris" which is where they were working on a dam. This over-extended way of discrimination because it's been decided that African Americans and other races should be equal. This also applies in document H because it's said that women are suffering in extreme poverty such as men and many wonder "What happens to them?" This gender discrimination is uncalled for since this is after 1919, which is when the 19th amendment was passed saying women are able to vote, giving them equality to men.

Although Roosevelt denied some Americans their rights, he was effective because he gave jobs and helped business. If Roosevelt had opened his horizons more so that women and African Americans the depression wouldn't have been that much of a problem, and if he used less money for his New Deals then the economy wouldn't be lower than what it was at the beginning of 1929.