History 12

Fukuyama’s ‘The End of History?’

*What we may be witnessing is not just the end of the*[*Cold War*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_War)*, or the passing of a particular period of post-war history, but the end of history as such: that is, the end point of mankind's ideological evolution and the universalization of Western*[*liberal democracy*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberal_democracy)*as the final form of human government.*

Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?", *The National Interest* (Summer 1989)

From Reading to Writing: Selecting A Quote

So you’ve read an article (at least twice), annotated it with your thoughts and questions, and created a  [Quote-Question-Comment Worksheet](https://bacwritingfellows.commons.gc.cuny.edu/for-students/tutorials/from-reading-to-writing-quotation-comment-question-q-c-q/) to separate your own ideas from the author’s. You’ve got great ideas for your writing assignment, and you’re starting to figure out your own ideas about what the author is saying and whether you agree or disagree with what he has to say.

Pretty much every piece of writing you do for college, whether it’s an informal post or a formal essay, will be in response to something you’ve read—and that means you have to quote. Sometimes you’ll rely on outside sources to introduce an idea, define a technical term, or provide supporting evidence for your own argument. Sometimes you’ll use a quote to illustrate different positions on an issue, or as an example of an argument you’ll go on to disagree with in your paper. But no matter why you’re using a quote, remember: **what you have to say is more important than what the quote has to say**.

For each quote, ask yourself:

* Does the quotation say something in an original or unusually vivid and powerful way that is hard to paraphrase?
* Are the quoted words themselves at issue in your interpretation?
* Does the quotation feature an idea you want to argue for or against?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, make a note of it next to the quote and hold onto it. If the answer to all of these questions is no, you don’t need the quote—set it aside (and start over….). Hopefully, you will come away with **one** quote from the three you began with.

Remember, every quote needs to be surrounded by your interpretation—that’s how you make the quote work for you. You can rearrange the information in your Quote Generating Worksheet in any number of ways, but one good technique is to start with **What It Means** (usually a summary or paraphrase of the quoted material), then insert the **Quote** followed by the **Author and Page** in the correct citation style for your paper, then interpret the quote by telling your reader **How It Relates** to your own argument.

The Argument

You need to construct an argument (yes, a **thesis statement**) that is in some way a critical response to Fukuyama’s essay, ‘The End of History?’. You may largely agree with what Fukuyama is saying or you may totally disagree. Chances are (if you’ve read the article), you already know what you want or need to say. So, and If, for interests sake (hint), this is going to be a 5 paragraph essay - **you need to break the main thesis into at least three arguable points, then group the supports under each point of your thesis.**

**Suggested References**

Take what you have learned, content wise, in History 12 so far and in particular, with regard to the Fall of Communism and its aftermath at the end of the 20th century, and integrate events, mass movements, ideologies, world leaders and other relevant ideas into your response to Fukuyama’s essay, ‘The End of History?’. Some suggestions follow, but you may come up with more fruitful ideas of your own from recent history or the present.

* Satellite States of the Soviet Empire
  + Poland (Solidarity Movement)
  + Czechoslovakia (Prague Spring [1968] & Velvet Revolution [1989])
  + Other?
* Fall of Berlin Wall & Reunification of Germany
* Collapse of the USSR
  + Glasnost
  + Perestroika
  + Counterrevolution in 1991 (Attempted Communist Coup D’Etat)
  + Rise of Vladimir Putin (Authoritarianism and Liberal Democracy?)
* Communism with Chinese Characteristics
  + Market Forces, Special Economic Zones & ‘Liberalization’ in China
  + Tiananmen Square Massacre, 1989
  + North Korea?
* Rise of Islamic Fundamentalism
  + Iranian Revolution, 1979
  + World Trade Centre Attacks (9/11/01)
  + Arab Spring (2011)
* Nationalism, Tribalism & Genocide
  + Rwandan Genocide, 1994
  + Yugoslav Wars, 1991-2001
* Social Media and Mass Movements
  + Ex. Use in Arab Spring
  + Technology and the Digital Age
  + Wither ideology in the face of popular culture (Kardashian, Bieber, ????)
* Economics
  + Global Financial Crisis, 2008
* Other?!!

As part of your essay write on Thursday, June 2nd, you will need to consider the above or other events, movements, ideas, persons you have come up with on your own, and reflect on whether any reflect or reject Fukuyama’s own ideas about ‘the end of history.’

**For Wednesday, June 1st – we’ll consider an essay outline.**