

Here are few examples of introduction paragraphs which would earn the rubric points for “Context” and “Thesis.” Obviously they are different in scope, but they all satisfy the rubric to some extent.

CONTEXT IN BLUE; THESIS IN RED. A,B, and C evidence is underlined.

NOTE: Notice how the counter argument is part of the context, and how the “However, A, B, C” is part of the thesis statement. These are the specifics you need to make the thesis complex; you won’t get the point without this complexity.

PROMPT: To what extent did the American Revolution fundamentally change American society? In your answer, be sure to address the political, social, and economic effects of the revolution in the period from 1775 to 1800.

Prior to the American Revolution, there was a significant amount of opposition to British efforts to enact a stronger amount of control over the colonies’ affairs. This tension arose from the American colonies already having to adhere to a strict policy of salutary neglect where the trade regulations between the North American colonies and the British government were laxly enforced. Ultimately, this salutary neglect contributed to the increasing autonomy of the colonies which further led to America gaining its independence. Although some may say that the American Revolution did not alter American society due to the inconsistency of the results of this war compared to other countries’ wars. **However, America’s relationships with a variation of cultures, the interpretation and changes of the government, and the confusion of property and currency as well as slaves no longer being property in certain states establishes that the American Revolution substantially changed American Society. Nearly every aspect of American life was touched following the Revolution and many political, social, and economic changes were made.**

Leading up to the American Revolution, the colonists experienced a time of salutary neglect. England was in severe debt and the colonies were not producing sufficient income, so England decided to abandon the colonies and let them go on their own while they fought their own troubles in their homeland. During this time the colonies continued their tradition of self-government and became self-sufficient. Specifically, during salutary neglect is when the colonist began to identify themselves as Americans. Some historians argue that the colonies did not have their own identity and were not unified. **However, the colonies greatly embodied their own identity and eventually became united as Americans due to their shared hatred over Britain’s new acts that affected the colonies economic system, personal safety, and individual liberties. Overall, through the colonist’s passionate common beliefs, the colonies greatly became united and formed an identity as Americans before the Revolutionary War.**

Throughout the American Revolution, America and its people underwent many changes as they strived to separate from British rule. Leading up to the Revolution Americans became fed up with the mistreatment and abandonment they experienced from their mother country. During the short time period of salutary neglect, Great Britain took some focus off of America which ultimately put the thought of an American Revolution into place. Due to Britain’s absence, the colonies got used to governing themselves, so when Britain returned and tried to regain some control there was major conflict. As America started this time of rebellion, Britain fought back by putting restrictions on America such as: the Proclamation of 1763, the Quartering Act, the Intolerable Act and the Boston Massacre, all of which prompted more conflict as Americans claimed their personal rights were being violated. Some historians argue that the American Revolution had little to no effect on American society; **however, this time period largely altered the lives of Americans as their form of government totally shifted, the economy flourished**

in agriculture, and women improved their livelihood. As a result of the American Revolution, American society majorly changed in political, economic, and social ways.

The Colonies were first created under the promise of self-government and with the aid of Britain. But as years passed and the economic prospects of the North American Territory became apparent to the American colonists and the country that ruled them. After the French and Indian War Britain's reign tightened and new laws, tariffs, and regulations were passed, all of which created sparks in the colonists' hearts that would only continue to be fueled by the unfairness and severity of British rule until it became a single and united fire. Some historians believe that while some began to express their British frustrations, the colonists did not develop a single and united identity. **However, the colonists did in fact create a united American identity prior to the revolution due to their resentment of taxation, British lack of respect or representation, and their geographical situation. On the eve of the revolution the American Colonists had developed a largely united and single Identity based on their geographical position, their hatred of British tyranny, and want for guaranteed liberty**

Prompt: To what extent had the colonists developed a sense of their identity and unity as Americans by the eve of the Revolution?

From the establishment of the first American colonies in the early 1600s, the American colonies were founded off of differing principles than their colonial neighbors Spain and France. The majority of American colonists came to the world in search of economic and religious freedom, seeking refuge away from Britain. Additionally, the institution of methods of self-government from their colonial start, with the Mayflower Compact, Virginia House of Burgesses, and Massachusetts Assembly created a legacy of individualism that would set the stage for colonial independence in 1776. Despite this, many historians believe that American identity and unity had not yet been formed by the Revolution due to the large loyalist population. **However, the colonies found unity against British imposition upon colonial economic independence, personal liberties, and legacy of self-governance. Thus, the American colonies were greatly unified against Britain at the time of the Revolution.**

The American colonies were left to fend for themselves for over one hundred years during the period of 1607-1763. The reasoning for this period of time was Britain's inability to enforce certain aspects of American life such as trade laws; this era soon became known as salutary neglect. This new system of ruling was a result of Britain's fighting in her own wars at home with other European countries, mainly France. The British parliament assumed that the American colonies would remain loyal and continue to follow their ideals; however, the colonies began to think for themselves. The American colonies saw this as an opportunity to try new styles of government, such as democracy instead of one tyrant, new economic habits, and more social unity as a country. Although some historians may believe that colonies accepted ideals of identity and unity after the revolution had begun, **the colonies came together during the years of salutary neglect with strong nationalistic and unified views of America, new political systems**

that protect the unity of the colonies, and new and independent economic strength. The colonies had strongly developed a sense of identity and unity by the eve of the revolution.

After America underwent salutary neglect from Britain during the French-Indian War, American molded into a self-sufficient country without Britain's help. The outcomes of this helped America create her own identity and culture thus becoming more united. Then once Britain tried to regain control over America by taxation, the stamp act and other means, Americans wanted to rebel and did things like boycott Britain that lead to violence like the Boston Massacre. The last straw for the Americans was the Coercive Acts that helped lead America into The American Revolution leading to their freedom from Britain. Although many say that after the American Revolution America changed drastically, **overall the American Revolution fundamentally changed American society slightly in terms of socially social classes were still hierarchical, politically they were modeled after Britain, and economically they were still using what they did during salutary neglect and during the revolution.** Therefore, while American did gain independence from Britain after the American Revolution, overall American fundamentally did not change drastically from before.

From 1660 to 1763 Britain fought a 100 Year War in Europe to defend her homeland. This period of Salutary Neglect resulted in the colonies becoming politically and economically self-sufficient. When the French and Indian War began in 1754 the colonies called in the British to help them fight. After the French were defeated in 1763, Britain was in enormous debt and could no longer increase the tax on its citizens which resulted in a series of taxes onto the colonists. The British taking back control of the colonies did not sit well with some colonists which sparked passions of rebellion. The colonists finally had enough and in 1775 shots were fired at Lexington and Concord, starting the American Revolution. With the victory at the Battle of Yorktown, America had gained her independence from Britain. Some historians may say that the American Revolution dramatically changed American society **however, the status of minority groups, ideals of freedom, and government as well as economics did not undergo an enormous amount of change. The American Revolution did not massively change America politically, socially, or economically.**

As the American colonies were settled by the British Empire, the political effects of Mercantilism were taking their toll. For a hundred years, the empire was engaged in wars, effectively starting the colonial legacy of Salutary Neglect. This was the first in a series of identities that Americans would soon earn, as settlers of the New World and fighters of their own battles, alone from the mother country. Some say that this did not help band the colonists together to win the war, as Tories remained loyal to the Empire. **However, their sense of independence, unalienable rights as British citizens, and pride in their own lands lead them to gain an identity separate from Britain that joined together to win their freedom.**

PROMPT: In what ways did the French and Indian War (1754-1763) alter the political, economic, and ideological relations between British and the American colonists?

Owning foreign colonies will always be for the benefit of the Mother Country, whether that is economically, or socio-politically with the ideal of Manifest Destiny that is ever present throughout the world. However, England got involved in the 100 years' war regarding European affairs, ultimately hindering their usual strong mercantilism. For this reason, the British decided to focus inward and let the

colonies govern themselves through British resemblance until the realm had been defended. Ultimately, the American colonists became self-sufficient, something that still defines us today, and their own form of Nationalism began to grow. When they came back to defeat the French for more territory in the New World though, they were faced with opposition from Americans as well. Despite historians claim that the French and Indian War reunited Britain with its American colonies by gaining more territory, **intense sectionalism lie within new political boundaries to appease Native Americans already living in the territory, economically with new acts and taxes to help benefit the Mother Country from their investment in the colonies, and ideological relations that Americans should remain loyal to the Crown, even though they were abandoned during the Era of Salutary Neglect. The French and Indian War, or Seven Years War, altered the political, economic, and ideological relations in a way that would only further exacerbate colonist's desire to gain independence.**

Prior to the French and Indian War, the colonies addressed the threat which they believed to be the Albany Plan. This plan was the first attempt at trans-regional colonial unity, and was a defensive alliance against the French and Indians. This plan administered a tax on the colonies, who refused council this right and considered it an inequity of representation. This led to conflict between the French and British and the colonists, in which the European countries fought to protect their homes. Some historians believe that the French and Indian War slightly altered relations between Britain and its American colonies. **However, the war resulted in less economic British influence among the colonies, Social tension between Europeans, Indians, and the colonists, and political disunity between England and America.** Ultimately, the French and Indian war significantly altered relations between Britain and the American colonies in that they modified social connections between global powers, resulted in political dissent, and economic freedom in the colonies