History Essay: Writing the Body of the Essay (Sections of Support)

1. Begin a new paragraph, with a topic sentence that supports your thesis statement and expresses the main idea of the section of support.

   The international community’s outrage at the previous acts of genocide, most notably the Holocaust, prodded it into discussion and debate as to how to deal with future genocides.

   In this section the author is arguing one piece of her thesis—that the international community resolved to prevent genocides.

2. Then provide evidence to support the topic sentence.

   Raphael Lemkin was a major contributor to the formation of the Convention for the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which was voted into existence by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948.¹ This act solidified the notion that any act of genocide, regardless of whether it remained within one country or not, was an international crime to be dealt with by the international community.

3. Next, explain how the evidence illustrates the topic sentence.

   [The creation of this Convention made clear] that any act of genocide needs to be dealt with and not ignored.

   The author spells out for the reader how her evidence—the UN resolution—demonstrates the resolve of the international community.

4. If you can, write a second paragraph in which you repeat (2) and (3) above, so that the section of support provides two pieces of evidence for the topic sentence.

5. Finally, provide a transition into the topic of the next section of support.

   However, the genocide in Rwanda was not dealt with even though the international community had an obvious obligation.

DO document all quotations, paraphrases, and summaries by including in parentheses the last name of the author and the page number of your source or, if the source is a webpage article for which you don’t have the title, give the title of the article in parentheses.

DON’T include any information in the paragraph that doesn’t relate to the topic sentence.

DON’T ever use the first person (“I”) or second person (“you”).
