***Writing a Great History Essay***

The first thing you’ll need is a plan! You need to make sure you write in paragraphs and that you try to make a balanced argument. At the end you’ll need a conclusion.

**Question: Was the British Failure at the Somme down to their own mistakes or the actions of the Germans?**

**Arguments for British mistakes:**

You’ll need to collect evidence and explain why this shows the British caused their own problems.

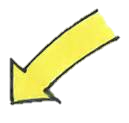
**Arguments for German actions:**

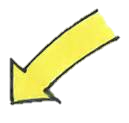
You’ll need to collect evidence and explain why this shows what the Germans did prevented British success.

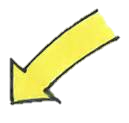
**Conclusion:** decide which side of the argument is stronger and explain why you think this.

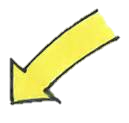
Once you’ve collected evidence and planned your essay, it’s time to start writing. The best paragraphs follow the P.E.E.L structure:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sentence Starters** | |
| **Point:**  *‘One reason…’*  *‘Secondly…’*  *‘Another factor…’* | **Evidence:**  *‘For example…’*  *‘This is shown by…’*  *‘I know this from…’* |
| **Explanation:**  *‘This meant…’*  *‘This caused…’*  *‘This shows that…’* | **Link:**  *‘Therefore…’*  *‘And so…’*  *‘Consequently…’* |



Point: state what your paragraph is going to be about.

Evidence: give information to back up your point.

Explanation: what your evidence shows.

Link: say how the paragraph helps answer the question.