**Strategies for Short Answer Questions (SAQ)**

Set up a “before, during, and after” answer when explaining something. For example, when discussing the Stamp Act Congress, write what led to its creation, what it asked for, and what it accomplished.

AP means Address Prompt, All Parts-never forget this! Don’t answer the prompt with an answer that you “want” to answer, answer the prompt that is required. For example, you may want to write about Independence, but the prompt is asking about, say, the French-Indian War.

Go big. Give specific details when you can, but always put your answer in the proper context. What is the big idea? What is the major era/period?

Include some “Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How” in every response. The more of these specific items the better.

Write as if you are explaining history to a reasonably intelligent person who is looking for more than just broad generalizations.

Stay within the proper time frame. If you go knowingly go outside the time then be sure to inform the reader that you’re either setting up your answer if it’s before the date in question, or that you’re showing the consequences of the period if it’s after the date in question.

Be careful not to overstate your response. Allow for shades of meaning and support, differences of outlook, and subtleties. Not everyone thinks the same in any era.

Do not assume that the reader knows what you are writing about. The more specific you are the better.

Be objective, not subjective. Don’t write about what should have happened, or how something should have been done. Write about what happened and why.