

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

Conflict with the Indigenous Nations – Events

20. Measuring Importance II – criteria of comparison [MEAL]

in Writing Exercise #16, we looked at the idea of importance, noted some modifiers of importance ('greatly', 'to a degree' etc.) and realised the need to explain why/how a result was importance.

But how do you MEASURE that importance?

Your teachers may have taught you Partington's taxonomy, or a mnemonic such as: 'GREAT', the '5Rs' or 'NAME'.
If they have, follow their advice.

If they have not specified an approach, however what I would suggest, for this kind of question, is that you should look at the event's/development's results and think about:

- **At The Time:** How impactful/ what did people feel & say about it *at the time*?
- **Legacy Effect:** With the benefit of hindsight, *how long-lasting* were the results/ were they a turning point in events/ do they still affect today

Say I have been asked to write an essay on the importance of various reasons for the destruction of the Plains Indians' way of life. The first paragraph is on the **RESERVATIONS**, and I plan it as follows:

- **Basic sentence:** *They limited their nomadic way of life.*
- **Modifier:** overwhelming
- **Effect:** ever smaller/ took away their hunting grounds/ had to change their way of life/ customs and religion punished/ diseases and poverty/ Dawes Act destroyed tribal community
- **At The Time:** hated as a 'prison'/ the cause of wars & defeat
- **Legacy Effect:** still exist today, and some are still places of poverty, drugs and alcohol

1. Write the first paragraph, on the damage caused by the reservations, based on the planned paragraph above.
2. Using the webpage, plan and write the 2nd paragraph, on the **DESTRUCTION OF THE BUFFALO**, using the frame:

- **Basic sentence:**
- **Modifier:**
- **Effect:**
- **At The Time:**
- **Legacy Effect:**

TOP TIP: following this approach to measuring importance – MEAL – will make it easier to COMPARE the importance of two alternative factors.