

# Contextualization & Thesis Practice ... *Revolution*

## From the 2015 Revised Framework:

**Contextualization** involves the ability to **connect historical events and processes to specific circumstances of time and place as well as broader regional, national, or global processes**. Proficient students will be able to situate historical events, developments, or processes within the broader regional, national, or global context in which they occurred in order to draw conclusions about their relative significance.

## From the 2017 Revised Rubric for the DBQ:

**CONTEXTUALIZATION: 1 point** - **Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.** *To earn this point, the response must relate the topic of the prompt to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or continue after the time frame of the question. This point is not awarded for merely a phrase or a reference.*

## From the 2015 Revised Content Outline:

**Key Concept 3.2: The American Revolution's democratic and republican ideals inspired new experiments with different forms of government.**

- I. The ideals that inspired the **revolutionary cause** reflected new beliefs about politics, religion, and society that had been developing over the course of the 18th century.
  - A) **Enlightenment ideas** and philosophy inspired many American political thinkers to emphasize **individual talent** over **hereditary privilege**, while **religion** strengthened Americans' view of themselves as a people blessed with **liberty**.
  - B) The colonists' belief in the **superiority of republican forms of government** based on the **natural rights** of the people found expression in **Thomas Paine's Common Sense** and the **Declaration of Independence**. The ideas in these documents resonated throughout American history, shaping Americans' understanding of the ideals on which the nation was based.
  - C) During and after the **American Revolution**, an increased awareness of inequalities in society motivated some individuals and groups to call for the **abolition of slavery** and greater **political democracy** in the new **state and national governments**.
  - D) In response to **women's participation in the American Revolution**, **Enlightenment ideas**, and **women's appeals for expanded roles**, an ideal of **"republican motherhood"** gained popularity. It called on women to teach **republican values** within the family and granted women a new importance in **American political culture**.
  - E) The **American Revolution** and the ideals set forth in the **Declaration of Independence** reverberated in **France, Haiti, and Latin America**, inspiring future independence movements.

**NAT-1.0:** Explain how ideas about democracy, freedom, and individualism found expression in the development of cultural values, political institutions, and American identity.

**CUL-1.0:** Explain how religious groups and ideas have affected American society and political life.

**CUL-3.0:** Explain how ideas about women's rights and gender roles have affected society and politics.

## Directions:

*Review the sample contextualization for the Declaration of Independence, and then complete contextualizations for the remaining key terms underlined in the Content Outline excerpt above. Each contextualization should be at least three sentences, include at least one specific piece of evidence, and relate to the prompt provided. You may collaborate with your group, but everyone needs to have their own written copy of each item. After you contextualize, write a thesis responding to the prompt using your thesis formula of **Although X, Y because AB**. Remember to identify the skill and tweak the formula as needed.*

# Contextualization & Thesis ... Declaration of Independence

**Prompt:** Explain how ideas about democracy, freedom, and individualism impacted the development of American identity from 1700-1783.

**Local Context**

(Who, What, When, Where)

*The Declaration of Independence was written in 1776. It listed grievances against the king and justified rebellion of the colonies.*

**Broad Context**

Why, How

What is the

“Big Picture?”

What is the theme?

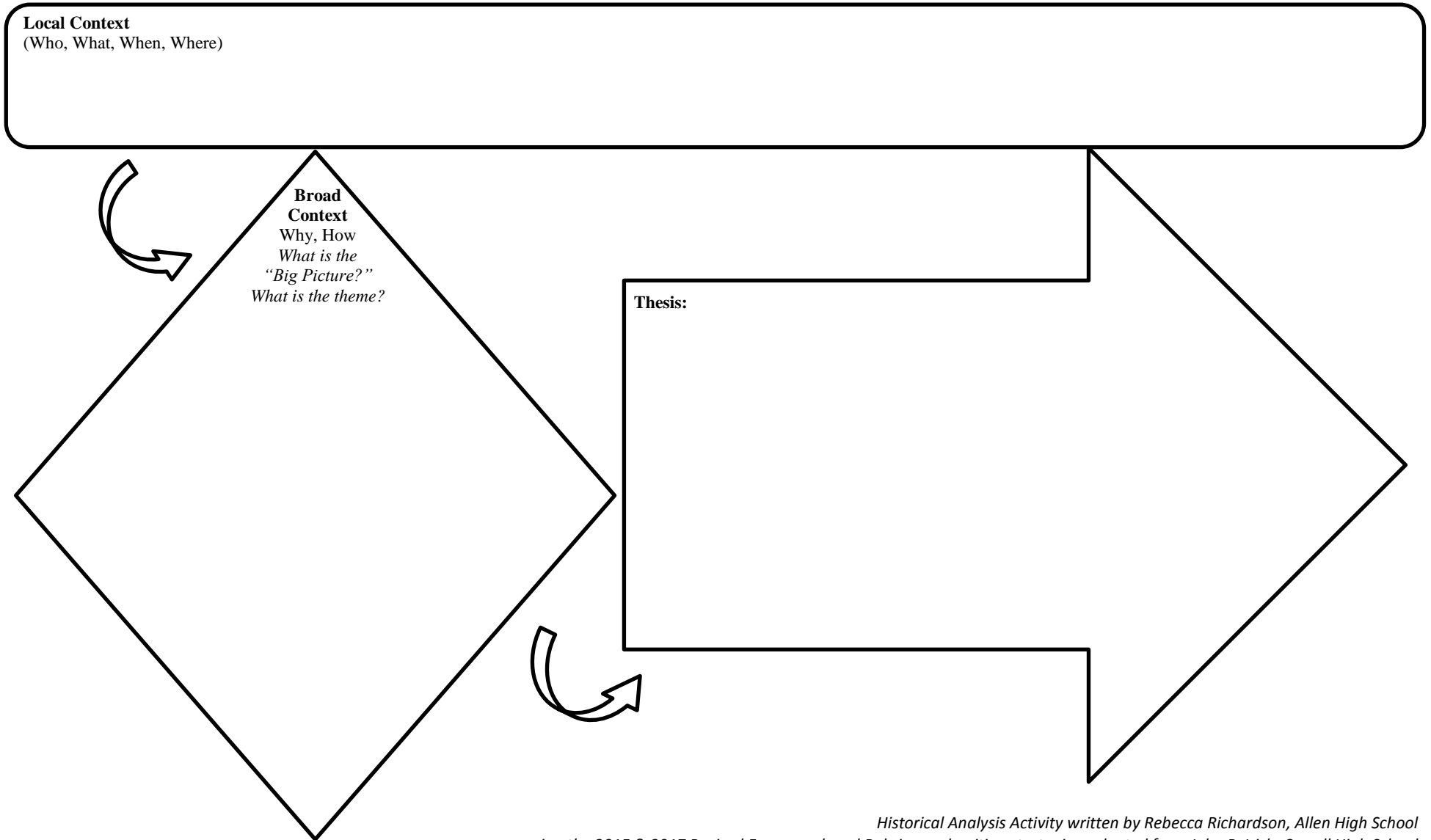
*It includes many ideas about democracy and freedom such as “life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness” which were adapted from Enlightenment ideas. Like natural rights. It illustrates the end of an effort to reconcile with Great Britain and a determination to rebel and break away.*

**Thesis:**

*Although many colonists embraced ideas about individualism in the eighteenth century which impacted the development of American identity as something unique and separate from Great Britain, ideas about democracy and freedom from Enlightenment thinkers had a much more profound impact on the development of identity because they ultimately led to the Declaration of Independence and the creation of a new nation under the Articles of Confederation.*

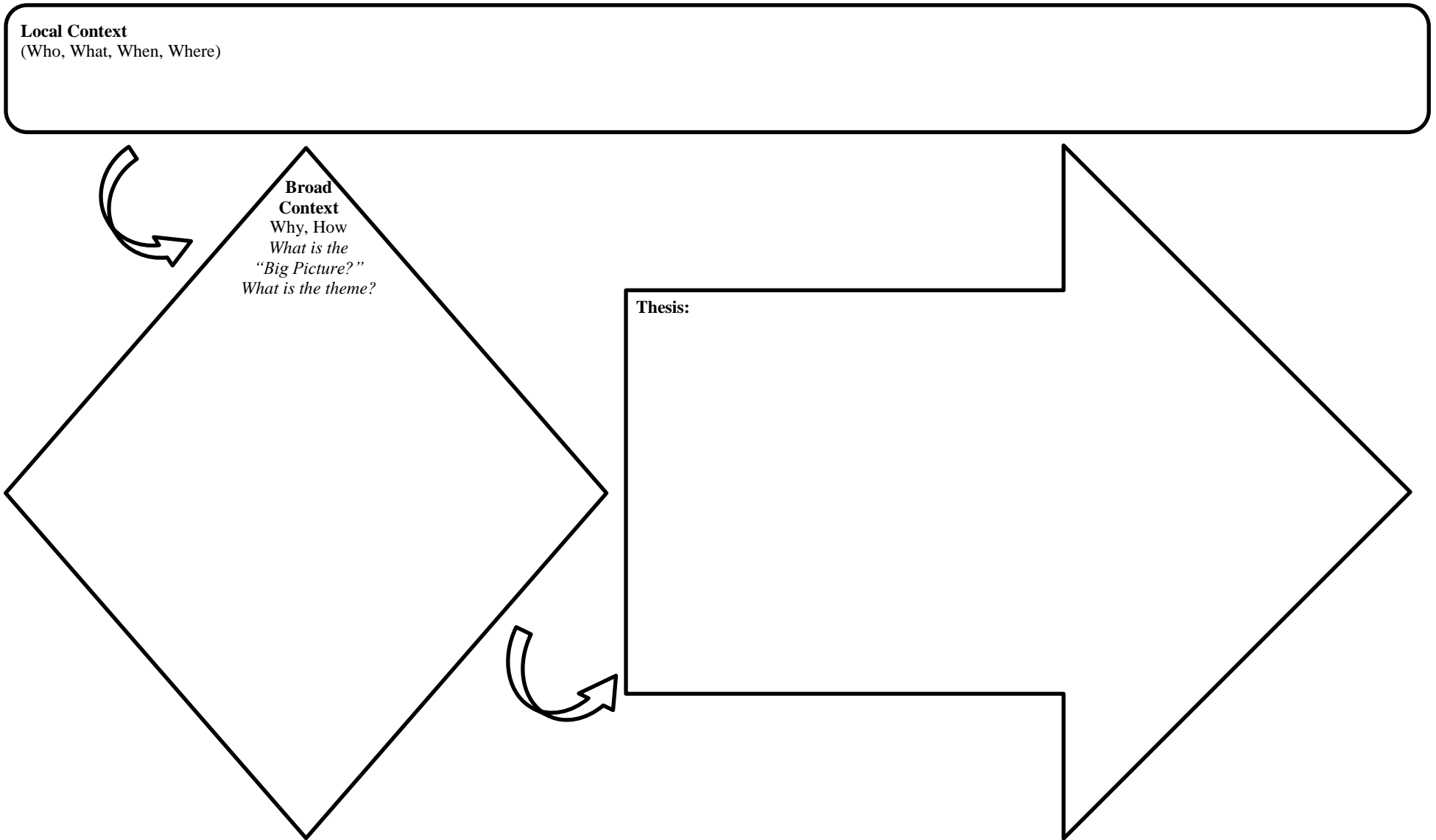
# Contextualization & Thesis... Thomas Paine's Common Sense

**Prompt:** Evaluate the extent to which Thomas Paine's Common Sense maintained continuity and fostered change in American identity during the Colonial Era, 1607-1776.



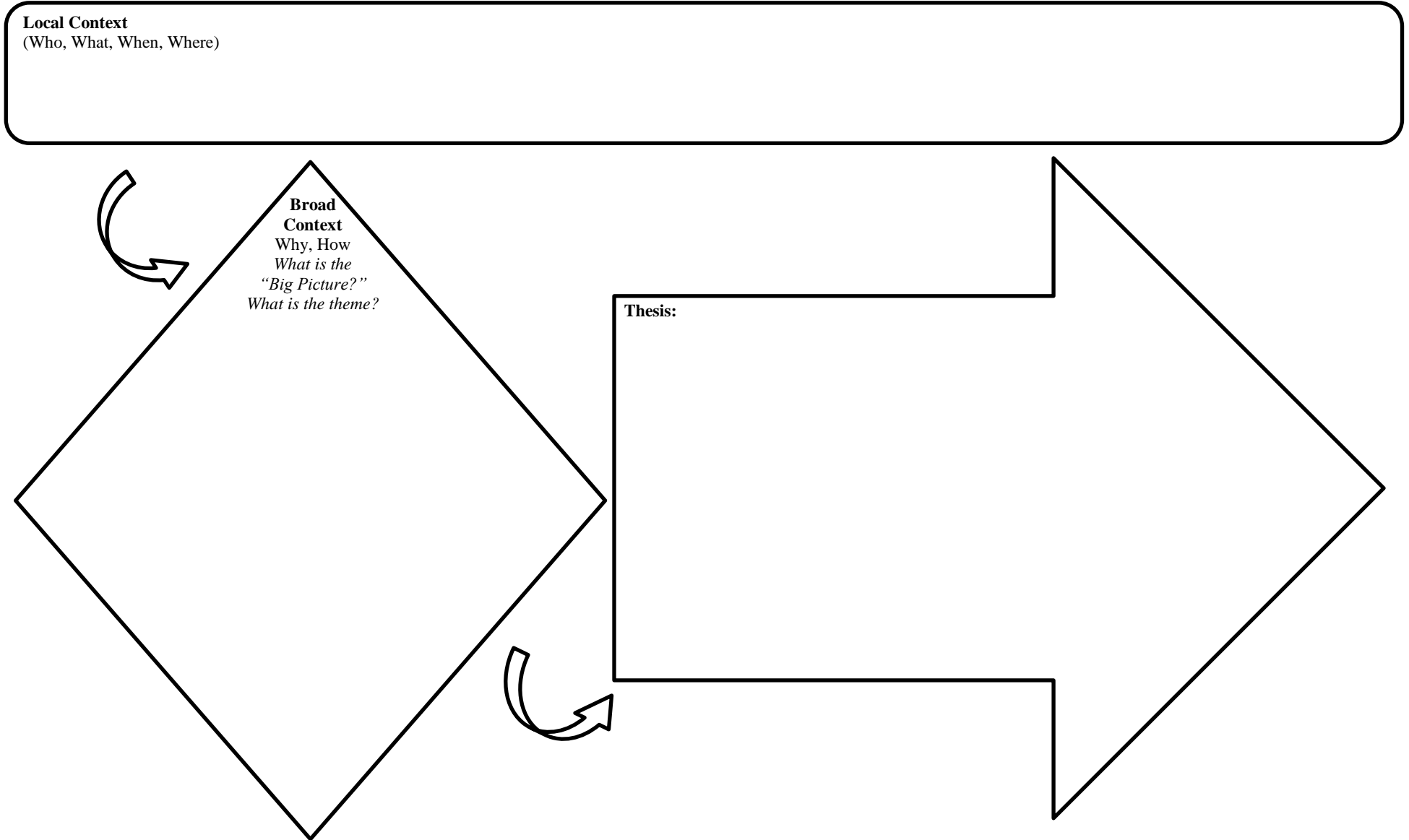
# Contextualization & Thesis... The American Revolution

**Prompt:** Compare and contrast the ways the French and Indian War (1754-1763) and the American War for Independence (1775-1783) impacted the development of the United States.



# Contextualization & Thesis... Republican Motherhood

**Prompt:** Explain how ideas about women's rights and gender roles affected the development of United States society and politics from 1763-1800.



# Contextualization & Thesis... Enlightenment Ideas

**Prompt:** Explain how religious and democratic ideas affected American society and political life from 1700-1776.

