

Sample Warm Up Prompts for Contextualization [or Thesis Writing] Warm Ups Linked to AMSCO chapters – Major Topics of Study

NOTE: In this document you will find one sample prompt for each chapter/topic. These prompts do not cover all of the content of the course. The purpose of this document is to give you a starting place to build your own collection. The potential topics in the right hand column can be used to help students begin the process of contextualizing if they are struggling to do so. Remember that contextualization is essentially setting the scene and explaining the broad context. It is not about defending an argument. The sample topics are relatively close to the parameters of the prompt. You can further challenge students by asking them to connect the historical significance of an event to a development in another era or even modern times.

AMSCO Chapters / Lesson Topics	Prompts	Potential Contextualization Topics
Chapter 1 – A New World of Many Cultures, 1491-1607	Explain the ways Native Americans adapted to their environment prior to 1492.	Christopher Columbus American Bison Pueblo
Chapter 2 – The Thirteen Colonies and the British Empire, 1607-1754	Compare and contrast British, French, and Spanish colonization in North America.	The Three G's Christopher Columbus Native American societies
Chapter 3 – Colonial Society in the 18 th Century	Evaluate the extent to which the Thirteen British Colonies in North America were similar.	Reasons for British colonization Triangular Trade Pueblo Revolt, New Spain
Chapter 4 – Imperial Wars and Colonial Protest, 1754-1774	Explain the impact of the Seven Years War (French and Indian War, 1754-1763).	Fur Trade Mercantilism Westward expansion/frontier
Chapter 5 – The American Revolution and Confederation, 1774-1777	Evaluate the impact of the American War for Independence, 1775-1783).	French and Indian War Enlightenment First Great Awakening

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Chapter 6 – The Constitution and the New Republic, 1787-1800	Compare and Contrast the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution.	Enlightenment George Washington British Imperial Policy
Chapter 7 – The Age of Jefferson, 1800-1816	Evaluate the ways the United States sought to establish their place in the world during Thomas Jefferson’s presidency.	First Two Party System Napoleonic War American Revolution
Chapter 8 – Nationalism and Economic Development, 1816-1848	Evaluate the impact of the Market Revolution on the United States economy and society.	Mercantilism Capitalism Embargo Act of 1807
Chapter 9 – Sectionalism, 1820-1860	To what extent was the institution of slavery responsible for growing sectional tensions during the Antebellum Era?	Manifest Destiny Triangular Trade Civil War
Chapter 10 – The Age of Jackson, 1824-1844	Compare and contrast the goals of the Democratic Party and the Whig Party during the Jackson Era.	First Two Party System Transcontinental Railroad Era of Good Feelings
Chapter 11 – Society, Culture, and Reform, 1820-1860	Evaluate the impact of the Second Great Awakening on American society.	First Great Awakening Nationalism Puritans
Chapter 12 – Territorial and Economic Expansion, 1830-1860	Evaluate the impact of the Mexican-American War.	Manifest Destiny James K. Polk Texas – 1836-1845
Chapter 13 – The Union in Peril, 1848-1861	Explain the impact political compromising had on sectionalism.	Constitution, 1789 Bill of Rights Civil War

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Chapter 14 – The Civil War, 1861-1865	To what extent was the institution of slavery responsible for the Civil War?	Reconstruction Bill of Rights Second Great Awakening
Chapter 15 – Reconstruction, 1863-1877	To what extent did the Reconstruction Amendments foster change in American society?	Civil Rights Movement Civil War Election of Abraham Lincoln
Chapter 16 – The Rise of Industrial America, 1865-1900	Evaluate the impact of capitalism on the American economy.	Feudalism to Capitalism, 18 th century Andrew Carnegie New South, Sharecropping
Chapter 17 – The Last West and the New South, 1865-1900	To what extent was enclosure of the West during the late 19 th century similar to Manifest Destiny during the early 19 th century?	Colonial Era migration American imperialism Native American societies
Chapter 18 – The Growth of Cities and American Culture, 1865-1900	Explain the causes of urbanization during the Gilded Age.	Ethnic neighborhoods Chinese Exclusion Act, nativism Settlement House Movement
Chapter 19 – The Politics of the Gilded Age, 1877-1900	To what extent did the People’s Party (Populists) succeed in reaching their goals?	Labor unions Farmer’s Alliance New Deal
Chapter 20 – Becoming a World Power, 1865-1917	Evaluate the impact of the Spanish-American War on the United States’ role in the world.	Manifest Destiny European colonization Yellow Journalism
Chapter 21 – The Progressive Era, 1901-1917	To what extent was the Progressive Movement a continuation of the Populist Movement?	Big Business Laissez-Faire Theodore Roosevelt

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Chapter 22 – World War I and Its Aftermath, 1914-1920	Evaluate the impact of the United States’ participation in the First World War.	Unrestricted submarine warfare Lusitania World War II
Chapter 23 – The Modern Era of the 1920s	Explain the ways culture conflicts in the 1920’s impacted American society.	Culture conflict in the 1950s Culture conflict in the 1980s The Great Migration
Chapter 24 – The Great Depression and the New Deal, 1929-1939	To what extent did Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal successfully address the Great Depression?	Laissez-Faire Progressive Reform Great Society
Chapter 25 – Diplomacy and World War II, 1929-1945	Explain the impact of the United States’ participation in the Second World War on American society and role in the world.	Invasion of Poland Pearl Harbor WWI, Treaty of Versailles
Chapter 26 – Truman and the Cold War, 1945-1952	To what extent was political ideology responsible for the Cold War?	Allies during WWII Bolshevik Revolution End of the Cold War
Chapter 27 – The Eisenhower Years, 1952-1960	Evaluate the impact of the Civil Rights Movement on American society and politics.	Reconstruction Jim Crow <i>Plessy vs. Ferguson</i>
Chapter 28 – Promise and Turmoil, the 1960’s	Compare and contrast the Korean War and Vietnam War’s impact on American society.	Domino Theory Containment World Wars
Chapter 29 – Limits of a Superpower, 1969-1980	Explain how environmental concerns impacted American politics and society from 1960-1980.	<i>Silent Spring</i> Nagasaki and Hiroshima Theodore Roosevelt

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Chapter 30 – Conservative Resurgence, 1980-2000	To what extent was Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society responsible for the conservative resurgence of 1964-1980?	Ronald Reagan New Deal <i>The Other America</i>
Chapter 31 – Challenges of the 21 st Century, 200-Present	Explain how the events of September 11, 2001 impacted American politics and role in the world.	Persian Gulf War Post war nationalism 1945 Cold War