

b) Argument Development

To earn this point, responses must move beyond a single sentence or a listing of facts in support of the thesis or argument; they must explain the relationship of historical evidence to a complex and cohesive thesis or argument and do so throughout the essay (1 point). Evidence can be related to the argument in ways such as contradiction (e.g., using evidence to address a possible counterargument to the main argument in the essay), corroboration (e.g., combining multiple pieces of evidence to support a single argument), or qualification (e.g., use of evidence to present an argument that is subsequently made more complex by noting exceptions).

Unacceptable argument development would include:

- ▶ Responses that do not develop a cohesive essay
- ▶ Responses that simply parrot the documents or list the documents in order
- ▶ Responses that fail to organize documents in any meaningful way
- ▶ Responses that do not reconnect the evidence of the essay back to a thesis or argument

Examples of acceptable argument development:

- ▶ "Political tensions also rose from the creation of the containment policy. This policy was originally created by George Kennan, in order to prevent communism from spreading. This can be seen in the document of George Kennan describing containment. This document's purpose is to explain the viability of the containment policy, and how it would eventually lead to the destruction of the USSR. Since the USSR wanted to spread communism, containment was a way to help prevent it. This can be seen in the cartoon by David Low. The cartoon's purpose is to show how the USSR intended to control almost every country within Europe, which displays the need for the containment policy. Another example of tension being caused through political differences was Stalin's control of Poland. After World War II, Stalin wanted to ensure that Germany could never attack the USSR. This caused tension, due to the fact that Stalin did not allow Poland to freely vote. The document of 'Joseph Stalin at the Yalta Conference' shows this."
- › This response is part of a cohesive essay that argues there were social, economic, and political tensions between the U.S. and the USSR, which led to the beginning of the Cold War. In this excerpt, the response uses the evidence from three documents to effectively corroborate its argument that political tensions rose out of the containment policy.

- ▶ “Propaganda also helped the cause of the Cold War. It attempted to discourage and show the horrors of communism while extolling the values of capitalism and democracy. In David Low’s cartoon it shows how each country was losing their freedom because of communism. It shows how the USSR was trying to take over the other, weak countries. Gallup Polls conducted in the U.S. show how the U.S. citizens feel about Russia. Throughout the years, the anti-Russia sentiments grew stronger, probably due to American propaganda. Also, Alger Hiss was accused of being a Soviet spy and was convicted of perjury. His case was heavily propagandized and caused a great deal of controversy. It forced Americans to become more alert about the dangers of hidden communist agents. All these social issues heightened tensions between the USSR and the United States and contributed to the Cold War.”
- › This response is also part of a cohesive essay that argues that divisive social issues, poor economics, and political tensions led to the beginning of the Cold War. In this excerpt, the response argues that many of the social tensions that grew between capitalism and communism were fanned by American propaganda. The response illustrates the relationships of three of the documents to corroborate this argument.

Example of unacceptable argument development:

- ▶ “Economic factors came into play at the start of the Cold War when the Soviet Union rejected the United States’ Baruch plan, which offered economic aid. The USSR did not want to be in debt to the USA because of the growing tension. Also, at the end of the war, Germany had large war pensions to pay off to the USSR. The Soviet Union used this to keep Germany weak, and began treating East Germany very poorly compared to West Germany.”
- › This response is attempting to support an argument that economic factors led to the beginning of the Cold War. However, the evidence presented is muddled. The Baruch plan is misidentified as a program offering economic aid to the Soviet Union. While war reparations to the USSR could provide excellent historical evidence to support this argument, the response is not very clear about how this led to tensions between the U.S. and the USSR. Overall, this response is not a clearly supported, cohesive argument.