



# THE REIGN OF **TERROR**

---

*Was It Justified?*

# INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

## **Grabber sentence ideas:**

- ❖ Shock the reader with some gruesome facts about the Reign of Terror (for example, total number of people decapitated)
- ❖ Ask a question that makes the reader think but gives them an idea where you are headed with the essay. “Should people be executed for not agreeing with the goals of a government?”
- ❖ Or start with, “The ends don’t always justify the means” and then explain how that statement relates to the Reign of Terror

# INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

## **Background on the FR ideas:**

- ❖ Write about the terrible situation in France just before the revolution begins (high bread prices, weak govt., high taxation of 3<sup>rd</sup> estate, Enlightenment ideas spreading, etc...)
- ❖ Next, write about the changes (reforms) they revolutionary govt. wanted (equality, democracy) and how they tried to achieve them (internal & external threats & how they dealt with them)



# INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

## **Stating the Question ideas:**

- ❖ Were the extreme measures of the Reign of Terror justified?
- ❖ Would the revolution have failed if not for the extreme measures  
Reign of Terror?

## **Thesis ideas:**

- ❖ In fact, the Reign of Terror was not justified because the internal threat did not require it and the methods used were too extreme.



## BODY PARAGRAPHS: TOPIC SENTENCES

---

### **Topic Sentence ideas:**

- ❖ The external threat of foreign armies in France did not justify the Reign of Terror.
- ❖ The internal threat of counter-revolutionaries was definitely serious but using terror to kill thousands of French citizens was not justified.



## BODY PARAGRAPHS: TOPIC SENTENCES

---

### **Topic Sentence ideas (cont):**

- ❖ (methods) The way the National Convention and Committee of Public Safety responded to the external and internal threats in France was unjustified.





BODY PARAGRAPHS:  
TRANSITION/CONTEXT SENTENCE(S)

---

**Transition/Context sentence ideas (external threat):**

- ❖ The Prussians and Austrians were worried about the revolution spreading into their lands and for the safety of Marie Antoinette (Doc A). Even though the French lost some battles... (Doc B).