

Getting Ready to Write/Speak—Gathering Evidence in Social Studies

The first step in crafting an argument, whether oral or written, is to gather the evidence you are going to need to use to support your case. Read the question you are being asked to answer. What is the question asking you to do?

Question: How did the outcomes of WWI contribute to the causes of WWII?

After you read the question, consider the best way to organize the information you need in order to develop your argument. This question is a cause and effect question so you are looking for the best way to organize information that will link a specific cause with a specific effect. A table is one way to organize the information.

Outcomes/Effects of WWI	Causes of WWII
Reparations on Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not allowed to have police force • Forced to pay large amounts of money 	Germany feels that they don't have any authority to police themselves. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels weakened • Opens the door to Nazi-encouraged Nationalism
Geographical divisions in Europe	
Political divisions/alliances in Europe	
Failure to implement postwar policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson's 14 Points 	Disagreements between countries who won WWI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No unity about how to divide Europe • Disagreements about the extent to which Germany should be allowed to rule themselves • Disagreements about how Germany should be treated
Militarization of Allied Forces	All of these countries had built up militaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military needs something to do • Contributes to Germany feeling weak

Now that you have gathered evidence to answer the question, you need to figure out how to organize your information and how to structure your argument.

Sentence frames are one tool that you can use to figure out how best to organize your arguments.

Sample Sentence Frames

The (outcome of WWI) led to (cause of WWII) because (reason).

The (outcome of WWI) were a cause of WWII because (reason).

The (cause of WWII) was a result of (outcome of WWI) because (reason).

