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Academic ESL World History Unit 5. Destruction and Liberation. Decolonization. Reading and Writing

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LIBERATION**Decolonization in Africa and Asia after 1945****Reading and Writing Exercise – Purpose and Tone – Compare and Contrast**

Source: <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/asia-and-africa>

All texts are made up of specific discourse. Authors give a text a purpose and voice by using different type of language, style, and voice when they “put together a text”. We sometimes also call this “stance”, “attitude”, or text function. Depending on the context, a sentence can **inform, instruct, argue, command, persuade, describe, explain, analyze, recommend etc.** when we read, or write ourselves, we often think of grammar details, and lose sight of this type of powerful functions which all texts carry. It is important to bear that in mind when you read a text to obtain information. What is the purpose of the text? Is it a balanced text, or does it represent a certain viewpoint or angle? Is there language that gives away the authorial stance and point of view? The upcoming text treats a difficult topic: the decolonization in Africa and Asia after 1945. The text is published on the website of the U.S. State Department, which lists several topics that describe more recent historical events.

1. Selected Vocabulary and Phrases

Vocabulary	Synonym
protracted	
to coincide	
to be affected by	
to significantly change	
to alter	
intrinsically	
to be drawn into	
arbitrary	
affinity	
To be increasingly concerned	
To assert	

2. **Skimming and Scanning:** Go over the text. Determine the main ideas of each paragraph. List the main idea, add a quote, and explain the quote.

Paragraph: Main idea	Quote	Explain

3. **Purpose and Tone:** Considering the different types of discourse discussed above, what is the main purpose of this text in your opinion. It can have more than one function. Explain.

4. **Paraphrasing exercise:** Look for the quote. Examine the context of the quote. Paraphrase the sentence using your own words.

Quote	Paraphrase
“The creation of so many new nations (...) altered the composition of the United Nations and political complexity of every region of the globe”	
In addition, the introduction of colonial rule drew arbitrary natural boundaries (...).	
“Several of the NATO allies asserted that their colonial possessions provided them with economic and military strength that would otherwise be lost to the alliance.”	

5. **Go over the second quote.** Explain how these arbitrary boundaries impacted the colonial territories according to the text. Write in full sentences.

6. The different positions of the United States:

According to the article, what drove the United States in its actions in favor or disfavor of developments in the former colonies? List at least four different reasons.

Reasons for U.S. decisions and political actions

7. COMPARE AND CONTRAST PARAGRAPH

In a compare-and-contrast- paragraph you describe and discuss similarities and differences. A good way of starting is to brainstorm your topic and take notes of similarities and differences. You will also need specific vocabulary.

Useful phrases and connectors:

Similarities

Similarly,

Likewise,

In the same manner,

Differences

However,

In contrast,

On the contrary,

Use subordinate conjunctions which connect clauses that express differences:

while and whereas

Compare the different positions of the United States, the Europeans, and the Soviet Union. How were they similar and how did they differ in their reactions to the independence movement in the former colonies? What were some of the reasons for their reactions according to the text?

Paragraph Writing: Begin the paragraph with a topic sentence. Briefly introduce and lay out the topic to the reader: What is it? Compare and contrast similarities and differences. Complete the paragraph with a concluding section.

8. Response Writing:

Pick a quote you find significant in the reading. Based on your own background and experience, do you agree or disagree with the quote? Write at least 7 sentences.