

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

Homesteaders Problems and Solutions

16. Importance I – from consequences to importance

Many GCSE students, asked to explain (Edexcel) or compare (AQA) the importance of an event or development will simply list the consequences, as though their importance is self-evident.

It is not: you have to list the consequences, **and then explain** why/how/whether they are important/unimportant.

Adjectives of importance

Key phrases to use will be: “as a result...”, “therefore...”, “consequently...”, “because of this...”

Particularly, two sentences you will be using a lot, are:

- THIS WAS [*considerably, hugely, indispensably, particularly, profoundly, very*] IMPORTANT BECAUSE...
- THIS WAS OF [*inconsequential, lesser, limited, little, minor, slight, some*] IMPORTANCE BECAUSE...

1. I have listed the [*modifiers of importance*] in alphabetical order; reorder them in order of size.

2. Consider the following table, which lists problems facing Homesteader families. Fill the gaps, so as to end up with a completed essay plan.

Note the importance of the ‘this led to’ arrow (‘→’) in the explanations:

| Result | Factual description | Modifier | Explanation of importance | Proving information |
|-----------------------|--|------------|--|---|
| Social isolation | | profoundly | No doctors or midwives → deaths no social life → loneliness | Many women gave up their plots and moved into town |
| Outlaws & bushwackers | Rival settlers, Bandits Vigilante cattlemen, some early lawmen | | | |
| Lack of wood | | | → no wood for fires or building | |
| Indigenous Renegades | Mrs Alderdice | limited | | As a %age, few settlers were killed by Indigenous attacks |
| Disease | | | | The death rate, especially from diphtheria, was high |

3. Use this table as a framework to create your own essay plan or the question:

“How great were the barriers facing farmers trying to setup a homestead on the Great Plains?”