

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.

How successful was the New Deal?

12. Explaining II – exemplification

Assessment objective AO1 – “knowledge and understanding” – is built into EVERY markscheme, so you have no alternative – you need to put some facts or quotes into your answers.

And if you want to earn marks from that knowledge, it needs to be **RELEVANT** to the question asked.

So – when you cite a fact or a quote – ask yourself: does this prove the point I am trying to make? You need what I am going to call ‘proving information’.

Imagine you are answering the question: ‘How successful was the New Deal?’ and want an example which proves that the New Deal: ‘Did not end the Depression’.

Consider the following facts about the New Deal:

- (1) “Roosevelt had no new ideas how to end the depression – just Hoover’s schemes only bigger.”
- (2) “It is not really fair to criticise Roosevelt for this – no one at that time knew how to end the Depression.”
- (3) “By 1935 he had failed to end unemployment (which was only down to 10.6 million).”

Choose which of the three facts you would use as proving information to support the idea that the New Deal ‘did not end the Depression’, and why would you choose that fact?

The answer is (3). You are trying to give an example which proves that the New Deal failed to end the Depression’. Fact (1) proves that the ‘New Deal’ was not all that ‘new’. Fact (2) exonerated Roosevelt from blame. But it is fact (3) that proves that the New Deal failed to end the Depression.

1. Imagine you are answering the question: ‘What were the successes of the New Deal?’ and are writing about the reason: ‘Restored faith in democracy’.

Which of the following three facts would be the best to use, and why?

- The administration took advice from the Federal Council of Negro Affairs.
- What a democratic state expects from its government was changed wholly and forever.
- Roosevelt was the only President elected four times.

2. Find RELEVANT ‘proving information’ to support the following arguments:

- The New Deal benefited Native Americans.
- The PWA and the TVA provided valuable economic and social infrastructure.
- Roosevelt will go down as one of the greatest ‘good men’ of history.
- The New Deal damaged or did not help Minority Groups and Immigrants.
- Many businessmen hated the New Deal.
- Activists said the New Deal did not go far enough.
- State Governments opposed many aspects of the New Deal.
- Roosevelt was accused of trying to become a dictator.