**Writing a Strong Change and Continuity Over Time Essay**

* Design a complex thesis (use “while,” “although,” or “despite”) that addresses time period specified and that shows both change and continuities over time - according to categories specified in prompt (if specified). If categories not specified, create some!
  + “**While the introduction of Islam to West Africa between 600 and 1450 CE changed political and economic structures, the role of indigenous cultures remained a strong cultural component of African life.”**
* Remember to use the “task” words of the prompt …let the reader know you are answering the question asked
* Organize response around a three stage framework:

Beginning: What did it (topic/region/issue) look like at beginning of time period

Middle : (what are 3 pieces of evidence of change during the time period  
 End: What did it ( region/topic/issue) look like at the end of time period

* Do not list events as “snapshots” in time; rather show how these events flowed into one another ( movie vs. snapshot!)
* Indicate change by using transition word/phrases such as:
  + “Over time changes in…..”
  + “As political structures evolved…,”
  + “Subtle changes in social structure…”
  + “Gradually over time changes in economic…….
  + “Eventually, over time, the role of the priest changed to …
  + During the 17th Century……
* Indicate continuity (ies) by using phrases such as:
  + Women continued to be subservient
  + The environment continued to play a central role
  + Continuous raids from the margin resulted in the decline…..
  + Nomadic traditions remained a strong cultural component….
  + The Gupta rulers continued to use regional allies to rule
  + New Mesoamerican conquerors such as the Toltecs continued many of the social practices of earlier societies
* Finally: Analyze the impact of the change(s) and the continuity (ies): Were the changed imposed (war/conquest) or welcomed (“velvet” revolution)? Did the changes strengthen or weaken the society? Was the continuity detrimental to society or did the tradition help it weather difficult times? What were consequences? Were consequences the same for all?
* Remember a Local to Global (LTG) connection ! What was going during the same time period in rest of world ?