

mathematical modeling introduction and early examples Workbook

mathematical modeling introduction and early examples

Mathematical modeling is a fundamental discipline that bridges the gap between abstract mathematics and real-world applications. It involves the process of translating real-world problems into mathematical language, enabling researchers and decision-makers to analyze, simulate, and predict phenomena across various fields such as science, engineering, economics, and social sciences. This article provides an in-depth introduction to mathematical modeling, explores its origins, and highlights some of the earliest and most influential examples that laid the foundation for modern applications.

What Is Mathematical Modeling?

Mathematical modeling is the process of creating a mathematical representation of a real-world system or problem. This process typically involves:

- Identifying the key variables and parameters that influence the system
- Formulating relationships among these variables based on empirical data, physical laws, or assumptions
- Constructing equations or algorithms that capture the dynamics of the system
- Analyzing the model to derive insights, make predictions, or optimize outcomes

The goal of mathematical modeling is to simplify complex realities while retaining essential features that influence the system's behavior. Well-designed models can help scientists and engineers understand phenomena, test hypotheses, and inform decision-making processes.

The Significance of Mathematical Modeling

Mathematical models are invaluable because they:

- Allow for systematic analysis of complex systems that are difficult to study through direct experimentation
- Enable simulations to test various scenarios and their outcomes without costly or impractical experiments

- Assist in optimizing processes, resource allocation, and strategic planning
- Provide a framework for understanding the underlying mechanisms driving observed phenomena
- Facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration by providing a common language for diverse scientific fields

Historical Background and Early Examples of Mathematical Modeling

The origins of mathematical modeling date back centuries, with some of the earliest examples rooted in physics, astronomy, and biology. Early thinkers recognized the power of mathematics to describe natural phenomena, setting the stage for the development of formal modeling techniques.

Ancient Civilizations and the Roots of Modeling

Although formalized mathematical modeling as a discipline emerged much later, ancient civilizations laid important groundwork:

- **Babylonian Astronomy:** Babylonians used mathematical tables to predict celestial events, effectively creating early predictive models based on observations and mathematical calculations.
- **Greek Mathematics and Geometry:** Greek mathematicians like Euclid and Pythagoras developed geometric principles that could be applied to understand physical spaces and structures.
- **Chinese and Indian Mathematics:** Early Chinese and Indian mathematicians contributed algorithms and numerical methods that would later influence modeling approaches.

Early Scientific Models

Some of the most influential early models emerged during the Scientific Revolution, where scholars sought to understand natural laws through mathematics:

- **Galileo's Kinematic Studies:** Galileo Galilei used mathematical relationships to describe the motion of objects, laying the foundation for classical mechanics. His experiments and observations led to the formulation of laws governing acceleration and velocity.
- **Isaac Newton's Laws of Motion and Universal Gravitation:** Newton's formulation of the laws of motion and gravity in the 17th century marked a pivotal moment in scientific modeling. These laws could be expressed as differential equations that accurately described planetary motion, falling objects, and celestial mechanics.

Early Examples in Population and Epidemiology

Beyond physics, early mathematical models began addressing biological phenomena:

- **Malthusian Model of Population Growth:** Reverend Thomas Malthus, in his 1798 work, proposed a simple exponential growth model for human populations, asserting that populations tend to grow until checked by resources or other limiting factors.

- **Lotka-Volterra Predator-Prey Model:** In the 1920s, Alfred Lotka and Vito Volterra independently developed models describing the dynamic interactions between predators and prey. These models used coupled differential equations to predict oscillations in populations over time.

Evolution of Mathematical Modeling Techniques

As computational power increased, so did the sophistication of models. The 20th century saw the development of:

- **Statistical and Probabilistic Models:** Incorporating randomness and uncertainty, vital for fields like economics and epidemiology.

- **Computational and Simulation Models:** Using computers to simulate complex systems, such as climate models or fluid dynamics.

- **Optimization Models:** Finding the best solutions under given constraints, crucial in logistics and resource management.

Conclusion

The history of mathematical modeling is rich and diverse, rooted in humanity's enduring quest to understand and predict the natural world. From early astronomical tables to Newtonian physics and biological population models, each example contributed to the development of techniques that continue to evolve today. Modern mathematical modeling integrates advances in computer science, data analysis, and interdisciplinary approaches, making it an essential tool across virtually all scientific and engineering domains. Understanding its origins and early examples provides valuable context for appreciating its current capabilities and future potential.

Mathematical Modeling: An Introduction and Early Examples

Mathematical modeling stands as a pillar of modern scientific inquiry and technological innovation. It is the art and science of translating real-world phenomena into mathematical language, enabling researchers and practitioners to analyze, predict, and optimize complex systems across disciplines such as physics, biology, economics, engineering, and social sciences. As a foundational tool, mathematical models provide clarity, structure, and predictive power, transforming abstract concepts into tangible insights.

In this comprehensive exploration, we delve into the essence of mathematical modeling, tracing its origins, fundamental principles, and illustrative early examples that showcase its evolution from simple problem-solving tools to sophisticated frameworks shaping our understanding of the world.

Understanding Mathematical Modeling

What Is Mathematical Modeling?

At its core, mathematical modeling involves constructing an abstract, mathematical representation of a real-world system or process. This abstraction captures essential features while simplifying or omitting extraneous details, making complex problems manageable. Once built, these models serve multiple purposes: they help understand underlying mechanisms, test hypotheses, forecast future behavior, and inform decision-making.

Key Components of a Mathematical Model:

- Variables: Quantities that can change within the system, representing measurable features like population size, temperature, velocity, or financial assets.
- Parameters: Fixed or known quantities that influence the system but are not directly variable within the model, such as growth rates, constants, or physical properties.
- Equations and Relationships: Mathematical expressions?differential equations, algebraic equations, inequalities?that describe how variables and parameters interact over time or space.
- Initial and Boundary Conditions: Specific values or constraints that define the state of the system at the start or at boundaries, essential for solving the equations.

Purpose and Benefits:

- Predict system behavior under different scenarios.
- Identify key factors influencing outcomes.
- Optimize processes and resource allocation.
- Gain insights into complex interactions that are difficult to observe directly.
- Facilitate communication among scientists and engineers through a shared mathematical language.

Why Is Mathematical Modeling Important?

The significance of mathematical modeling extends across numerous domains:

- Science and Engineering: From modeling planetary motion to designing aerodynamic vehicles.
- Economics and Finance: Forecasting market trends and assessing financial risks.
- Medicine and Biology: Understanding disease spread or gene interactions.
- Environmental Science: Predicting climate change impacts or pollution dispersion.
- Social Sciences: Analyzing human behavior patterns and societal dynamics.

By abstracting reality into manageable mathematical forms, models enable us to simulate systems, test hypotheses, and make informed decisions, often saving time, resources, and potentially lives.

Historical Foundations and Early Examples of Mathematical Modeling

Mathematical modeling is not a recent invention; its roots trace back centuries, with pioneering figures laying foundations that continue to influence the field today. Early examples often involved straightforward applications of algebra and geometry, gradually evolving into complex systems governed by calculus and differential equations.

Ancient Beginnings: The Geometry of Motion

One of the earliest manifestations of mathematical modeling can be found in ancient Greece. The works of Euclid and Pythagoras laid geometric groundwork, but it was Aristotle and later Archimedes who began to consider relationships between physical phenomena and mathematical descriptions.

Archimedes' Contributions:

- Developed methods to approximate areas and volumes, effectively modeling physical objects.
- Used geometric reasoning to analyze levers, buoyancy, and equilibrium?concepts that underpin mechanical systems.
- His work on the Archimedean screw can be viewed as an early engineering model translating physical principles into mathematical and mechanical form.

Although not formal models in the modern sense, these early efforts exemplified the idea of translating physical observations into mathematical descriptions, setting the stage for future developments.

The Birth of Algebraic and Differential Models: 17th Century

The Renaissance period marked a turning point with the advent of algebra and calculus, greatly expanding the scope of modeling.

Key Figures and Examples:

- Galileo Galilei (1564-1642): Employed mathematical descriptions of motion, notably studying falling bodies and projectile trajectories. His experiments and models helped quantify acceleration due to gravity, transforming qualitative observations into predictive equations.
- Johannes Kepler (1571-1630): Formulated three laws of planetary motion, which are early instances of mathematical modeling of celestial mechanics. Kepler's laws describe the elliptical orbits of planets, enabling precise predictions of planetary positions—a groundbreaking achievement.
- Isaac Newton (1642-1727): Developed calculus and formulated Newton's laws of motion and universal gravitation. These models revolutionized physics, allowing the prediction of planetary motion, tides, and falling objects with remarkable accuracy.

Early Examples of Mathematical Modeling:

- Projectile motion: Using quadratic equations derived from Newtonian physics to predict the path of a thrown object.
- Planetary motion: Kepler's laws as mathematical models describing celestial trajectories.
- Fluid dynamics: Newton's work on fluid flow, although primitive compared to modern computational fluid dynamics, laid important groundwork.

These models not only explained observed phenomena but also predicted outcomes that could be experimentally verified, establishing the scientific method's reliance on mathematical representations.

Biological and Demographic Models: 18th and 19th Centuries

The application of mathematics extended into biology and social sciences, exemplified by early population models.

Notable Early Examples:

- Thomas Malthus (1798): Proposed a simple exponential model of population growth, stating that populations tend to grow geometrically while resources grow arithmetically, leading to potential overpopulation and resource scarcity.
- Pierre-François Verhulst (1838): Developed the logistic growth model to address Malthusian

limitations, incorporating a carrying capacity that limits population growth. The logistic equation:

\[

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = r P \left(1 - \frac{P}{K}\right)$$

\]

where P is population size, r is the growth rate, and K is the carrying capacity.

Implications:

- These models helped understand biological populations and resource limitations.
- They provided a framework for managing fisheries, agriculture, and public health.

Physical and Engineering Models in the Industrial Age

The 19th and early 20th centuries saw an explosion of physical and engineering models driven by technological progress.

Examples:

- Heat transfer and thermodynamics: Fourier's law of heat conduction (1822) modeled the flow of heat in materials, crucial for engineering applications.
- Mechanical vibrations: Damped harmonic oscillator models described systems like bridges, building structures, and musical instruments.
- Electrical circuits: Ohm's law and later Kirchhoff's laws modeled electrical networks, forming the basis for electrical engineering.

These models facilitated design, optimization, and safety assessments in engineering projects, illustrating the practical power of mathematical abstractions.

Summary and Reflection

The evolution of mathematical modeling reflects humanity's ongoing quest to understand and manipulate the natural world. From the geometric insights of ancient Greece to the differential equations describing planetary motion, early models have played a vital role in advancing science and technology.

Key Takeaways:

- Mathematical modeling roots extend deep into history, with foundational work by Archimedes, Kepler, Newton, and others.
- Early models often relied on geometric reasoning, algebraic equations, and calculus to translate observations into predictive frameworks.
- These models have been instrumental across disciplines—from physics and astronomy to biology and engineering—forming the backbone of scientific progress.
- The iterative process of modeling—constructing, testing, refining—remains central to modern science, continually expanding our capacity to understand complex systems.

As we look ahead, the principles established by these early examples continue to underpin advances in computational modeling, data-driven simulations, and interdisciplinary approaches, ensuring that mathematical modeling remains a vital, dynamic field at the heart of innovation.

In conclusion, understanding the roots and early examples of mathematical modeling offers invaluable perspective on its power and versatility. It demonstrates how abstract mathematical constructs, when thoughtfully applied, can illuminate the intricacies of our universe, guiding discoveries and shaping the future.

QuestionAnswer What is mathematical modeling and why is it important? Mathematical modeling is the process of using mathematical concepts and structures to represent, analyze, and predict real-world phenomena. It is important because it helps in understanding complex systems, making informed decisions, and solving practical problems across various fields. Can you give an early example of a mathematical model? One of the earliest examples is the use of geometric models by ancient Greeks, such as Euclid's work on geometry, which provided a formal framework to understand shapes and spatial relationships. How did early scientists use mathematical modeling in their studies? Early scientists like Newton used mathematical models to describe physical phenomena, such as motion and gravity, leading to the development of classical mechanics and fundamental laws of physics. What are some common types of mathematical models introduced in early examples? Early models often included geometric representations, algebraic equations, and differential equations, which were used to describe physical systems like planetary motion, pendulums, and fluid flow. How has the concept of mathematical modeling evolved since its early days? Since its early days, mathematical modeling has evolved to include complex computational models, simulations, and data-driven approaches, enabling the analysis of highly intricate systems in science, engineering, economics, and beyond.

Related keywords: mathematical modeling, introduction, early examples, modeling techniques, mathematical analysis, computer simulations, application examples, problem-solving, system dynamics, historical development

Examples For Sat Essays

examples for sat essays are essential resources for students aiming to excel in the SAT Essay section. Understanding what makes a compelling essay can significantly improve your score and boost your confidence. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore various examples for SAT essays, analyze how to incorporate them effectively, and provide strategies for crafting persuasive and well-structured responses. Whether you're a first-time test-taker or looking to improve your existing score, this article offers valuable insights into the types of examples that resonate with graders and how to use them to your advantage.

Understanding the Role of Examples in SAT Essays

Before diving into specific examples, it's crucial to understand why examples are so vital in SAT essays. The SAT essay prompts typically ask students to analyze a provided passage, focusing on how the author builds their argument. To do this convincingly, students must support their analysis with clear, relevant examples.

Key Points about Examples in SAT Essays:

- Support your thesis: Examples serve as evidence to back your main argument.
- Demonstrate understanding: Well-chosen examples show that you grasp the passage's themes and techniques.
- Showcase critical thinking: Using varied and insightful examples reflects depth of analysis.
- Engage the reader: Relevant examples make your essay more compelling and persuasive.

Types of Effective Examples for SAT Essays

Using a variety of examples can strengthen your essay and demonstrate your versatility in analysis. Here are some common types of examples that tend to resonate well with SAT graders:

1. Literary Examples

Drawing from classic or contemporary literature provides rich material for analysis.

Examples include:

- Quotes or themes from Shakespeare, Dickens, Austen, or modern authors.
- Literary devices such as symbolism, metaphor, or irony.

- Character analysis or plot examples that illustrate a broader point.

Why they work: Literary examples are often familiar and can be analyzed in depth, showcasing your analytical skills.

2. Historical Examples

Historical events and figures are powerful sources of evidence.

Examples include:

- The Civil Rights Movement when discussing justice or equality.
- Winston Churchill during WWII to illustrate resilience.
- The American Revolution for themes of independence.

Why they work: They add credibility and show your ability to connect ideas across different contexts.

3. Personal Examples

Personal experiences can make your essay unique and memorable.

Examples include:

- Overcoming adversity to highlight perseverance.
- Leadership roles in school or community projects.
- Personal growth through failure or challenge.

Note: Use personal examples sparingly and ensure they are relevant and appropriate.

4. Contemporary Examples

Current events and modern phenomena are highly effective.

Examples include:

- Technology's impact on society.
- Social media movements like MeToo.
- Environmental issues such as climate change.

Why they work: They demonstrate awareness of ongoing societal issues and relevance.

How to Select the Best Examples for Your SAT Essay

Choosing the right examples is crucial. Here are steps to help you select compelling evidence:

- **Understand the prompt:** Clarify what the prompt asks you to analyze.
- **Identify key themes:** Determine the main ideas or techniques in the passage.
- **Match examples to themes:** Choose examples that directly relate to these themes or techniques.
- **Ensure relevance and clarity:** Select examples that are easy to explain and support your analysis.
- **Vary your examples:** Use different types (literary, historical, personal, current) to showcase breadth.

Sample SAT Essay Prompts and Examples

To illustrate how to incorporate examples effectively, here are some sample prompts along with example ideas.

Prompt 1: Analyzing an Author's Use of Persuasion

Sample passage discusses how an author uses emotional appeals to persuade readers.

Example ideas:

- Refer to Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, highlighting emotional language.
- Analyze how the use of repetition enhances the emotional impact.
- Connect this to the passage's techniques, illustrating the power of emotional appeals.

Prompt 2: Discussing the Importance of Resilience

Sample passage emphasizes resilience in overcoming obstacles.

Example ideas:

- Use the story of Thomas Edison's perseverance during invention failures.
- Draw from historical resilience, such as Winston Churchill's leadership during WWII.

- Personal example: overcoming academic challenges to succeed.

Strategies for Incorporating Examples Effectively

Simply listing examples isn't enough; how you incorporate them matters. Follow these strategies:

- Introduce the example clearly: Provide context briefly before explaining its relevance.
- Explain the connection: Clarify how the example supports your analysis.
- Use specific details: Include concrete facts, quotes, or descriptions.
- Relate back to the thesis: Tie the example directly to your main argument or the passage's techniques.

Sample Paragraph Demonstrating Effective Use of Examples

"The author's use of emotional appeals is reminiscent of Martin Luther King Jr.'s powerful speeches, where repetition and vivid imagery stirred the emotions of listeners. For instance, King's repeated refrain, 'I have a dream,' served to emphasize hope and unity. Similarly, in the passage, the author employs repetition to evoke feelings of perseverance and resolve. This technique effectively persuades the audience by appealing to their shared values and aspirations, demonstrating the author's skillful use of emotional language to bolster their argument."

Additional Tips for Success with SAT Essay Examples

- Practice with diverse examples: Read widely to build a mental library of evidence.
- Stay relevant: Make sure every example directly relates to your analysis.
- Be concise: Integrate examples smoothly without overloading your essay.
- Develop your analysis: Use examples as support, not as the main focus.

Conclusion: Mastering Examples for SAT Essays

In sum, effective examples for SAT essays span literary works, historical events, personal experiences, and current issues. The key to success lies in selecting relevant, specific, and compelling examples that reinforce your analysis and demonstrate your critical thinking skills. Regular practice in identifying and incorporating diverse evidence will prepare you to craft persuasive essays that impress graders and elevate your SAT score. Remember, the best essays are those that thoughtfully connect examples to the prompt, showcasing your analytical depth and writing prowess. Start building your arsenal of examples today, and approach your SAT essay with confidence and clarity.

Examples for SAT Essays: A Comprehensive Guide to Crafting Effective Analytical Essays

The SAT essay remains a critical component of college admissions for many institutions, demanding students demonstrate their analytical skills by examining a provided text. One of the most challenging aspects for test-takers is understanding what constitutes a strong, well-supported essay, especially when it comes to citing effective examples. In this comprehensive review, we will explore various types of examples suitable for SAT essays, analyze what makes them compelling, and provide guidance on integrating them effectively into your writing.

Understanding the Role of Examples in SAT Essays

Before diving into specific examples, it's essential to grasp why examples are crucial in SAT essays. The prompt typically asks students to analyze how an author builds an argument or develops a theme. To do this convincingly, students must cite concrete evidence from the text, including quotations, paraphrases, or references, to support their analysis.

Effective examples serve several purposes:

- Illustrate the author's techniques: Showing how rhetorical devices, diction, or structure influence the meaning.
- Support analytical points: Providing concrete backing for claims about the author's intent or effectiveness.
- Engage the reader: Making the essay more persuasive and credible through specific evidence.

The key is selecting examples that are relevant, specific, and well-explained.

Types of Examples Suitable for SAT Essays

Students can draw from various sources when selecting examples, depending on the prompt and their familiarity. Here are common categories:

1. Textual Evidence from the Provided Passage

Since the SAT essay involves analyzing a specific passage, the most directly relevant examples come from the text itself.

- Quotations: Short, impactful lines that exemplify a point.
- Paraphrases: Restating ideas to clarify or emphasize a point.
- Structural elements: Noting how paragraph organization or sentence structure contributes to the

overall argument.

Example:

If the passage discusses persuasion, citing a line where the author appeals to ethos or pathos can be powerful.

2. Historical and Literary References

Drawing parallels to historical events, philosophical ideas, or literary works can deepen your analysis.

- Historical examples: Refer to well-known events that relate to themes in the passage.
- Literary works: Use characters, themes, or techniques from literature that mirror the author's approach.

Example:

Referring to the rhetorical strategies of Martin Luther King Jr. when discussing persuasive language.

3. Real-World Examples and Current Events

In some cases, bringing in contemporary issues or familiar examples can illustrate a point about human nature, society, or communication.

- Current events: Political debates, social movements, or technological advances.
- Everyday life: Situations students experience that relate to the passage's themes.

Note: While these are powerful, ensure they are relevant and used judiciously; the focus should remain on analyzing the passage.

4. Analogies and Hypotheticals

When suitable, creating analogies or hypothetical scenarios can clarify complex ideas or demonstrate how a technique functions.

Example:

Explaining how a speaker's use of repetition amplifies a message by comparing it to a chorus in a

song.

Effective Strategies for Selecting and Using Examples

Choosing the right examples is just as important as analyzing them. Below are strategies to maximize their impact.

1. Be Specific and Precise

Generic references or vague statements weaken your argument. Instead, cite exact lines or detailed references.

Poor example:

"The author uses strong language."

Better:

"The phrase 'we must act now' employs urgency to persuade the audience."

2. Connect Examples Directly to Your Analysis

After citing an example, explicitly explain how it supports your point.

Example:

"By repeatedly emphasizing the need for 'urgent action,' the author appeals to the audience's sense of responsibility, thereby strengthening their persuasive effect."

3. Maintain Relevance

Ensure every example relates directly to the prompt and your thesis. Off-topic examples can dilute your argument.

4. Integrate Examples Seamlessly

Embed quotations and references smoothly into your sentences to maintain flow.

Example:

As the author states, "The challenges are insurmountable," highlighting their attempt to evoke a

sense of hopelessness.

Sample Examples for Common SAT Essay Prompts

To illustrate how to select and deploy examples effectively, here are some typical prompts and corresponding example strategies.

Prompt 1: Analyze how an author builds an argument to persuade the audience.

Example:

Suppose the passage discusses environmental conservation. An effective example could be:

"The author appeals to ethos by citing scientific studies, such as '97% of climate scientists agree that human activity is the primary cause of global warming,' establishing credibility."

Follow this with an explanation of how this appeal builds trust and persuades the audience.

Prompt 2: Examine the development of a theme or idea in the passage.

Example:

If the theme involves resilience, a relevant example might be:

"The author illustrates resilience through the metaphor of a 'storm that clears the way for new growth,' symbolizing hope and renewal after hardship."

Explain how this metaphor deepens the reader's understanding of resilience as a continual process.

Prompt 3: Discuss the effectiveness of stylistic devices in the passage.

Example:

If the passage employs repetition, cite specific instances:

"The repeated phrase 'We cannot afford to wait' emphasizes urgency, compelling the audience to act immediately."

Analyze how this stylistic choice enhances the author's persuasive goals.

Building a Library of Effective Examples

To prepare for the SAT essay, students should develop a mental repository of versatile examples across various topics:

- Classic literary works (e.g., Shakespeare, Orwell, Dickinson)
- Historical moments (e.g., Civil Rights Movement, World Wars)
- Current events (e.g., climate change, technological innovation)
- Everyday observations (e.g., family dynamics, school experiences)

By familiarizing yourself with these examples, you can adapt them quickly to different prompts and demonstrate breadth and depth in your analysis.

Conclusion: Mastering Examples for SAT Essays

Examples are the backbone of a compelling SAT essay. Effective use of specific, relevant, and well-integrated evidence can elevate your analytical writing and persuade your reader of your insight. Remember to:

- Select examples that directly support your analytical points.
- Explain thoroughly how each example contributes to your argument.
- Practice integrating examples smoothly to maintain flow.
- Build a diverse mental library of potential examples from literature, history, current events, and personal observations.

With diligent preparation and strategic thinking, your ability to cite powerful examples will improve, boosting your overall SAT essay score and showcasing your analytical prowess to admissions committees.

Question What are some effective examples to include in an SAT essay about perseverance? Effective examples for an SAT essay on perseverance include stories of famous individuals like Thomas Edison, who faced numerous failures before inventing the light bulb, or personal anecdotes demonstrating resilience in overcoming challenges. These examples help illustrate the importance of persistence and determination. Can you give an example of a historical event to support an argument about change? Yes, referencing the Civil Rights Movement as an example of societal change through activism and perseverance can strengthen an essay discussing how change is possible through collective effort and determination. What types of literary examples are useful for illustrating themes of courage? Literary examples such as Atticus Finch from 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' who demonstrates moral courage, or Harry Potter, who shows bravery in the face of

danger, are effective in illustrating themes of courage in an SAT essay. How can personal experiences serve as examples in an SAT essay? Personal experiences like overcoming a difficult academic challenge or volunteering in a community project can provide authentic, compelling examples that demonstrate qualities like resilience, empathy, or leadership, making your essay more engaging. Are current events good examples for SAT essays, and if so, which ones? Yes, current events can be powerful examples. For instance, discussing climate change initiatives, technological advancements, or recent social movements can make your essay relevant and demonstrate awareness of contemporary issues.

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