Name _____

GEOGRAPHY: AN INTRODUCTION

When the United States first declared its independence in 1776 it was made up of 13 states all located on the East coast of what is now the 50 United States. As time when on, the United States acquired more land, more power and more prestige. In this short unit on US Geography we will look at the positives and negatives effects geography has had on the development of the United States by examining the attached document based questions and a short set of notes. By the end of the unit you should be able to answer the following 2 questions in great detail:

1. How has geography affected the development of the United States?
2. How does geography affect how and where people live?

DBQ ESSAY & REQUIREMENTS

Theme: Geography

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of the documents have been edited for the purposes of the question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.

Historical Context

Geographic factors such as size, location, climate, and natural resources have played a critical role in the development of the United States. They have had both positive and negative effects on the United States throughout its history.

Task: Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history, answer the questions that follow each document. Your answers to the questions will help you write the essay in which you will be asked to

- Discuss the positive ***and/or*** negative effects of geography on the development of the US

I will be grading your essays using the rubric on the back of this page. Please review it as you are writing your essay as it will help you determine what you need to do to receive a score of 5 ☺

Name _____

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION
GENERIC SCORING RUBRIC

Score of 5:
• Thoroughly addresses all aspects of the *Task* by accurately analyzing and interpreting at least **four** documents
• Incorporates information from the documents in the body of the essay
• Incorporates relevant outside information
• Richly supports the theme or problem with relevant facts, examples, and details
• Is a well-developed essay, consistently demonstrating a logical and clear plan of organization
• Introduces the theme or problem by establishing a framework that is beyond a simple restatement of the *Task* or *Historical Context* and concludes with a summation of the theme or problem

Score of 4:
• Addresses all aspects of the *Task* by accurately analyzing and interpreting at least **four** documents
• Incorporates information from the documents in the body of the essay
• Incorporates relevant outside information
• Includes relevant facts, examples, and details, but discussion may be more descriptive than analytical
• Is a well-developed essay, demonstrating a logical and clear plan of organization
• Introduces the theme or problem by establishing a framework that is beyond a simple restatement of the *Task* or *Historical Context* and concludes with a summation of the theme or problem

Score of 3:
• Addresses most aspects of the *Task* or addresses all aspects of the *Task* in a limited way, using some of the documents
• Incorporates some information from the documents in the body of the essay
• Incorporates limited or no relevant outside information
• Includes some facts, examples, and details, but discussion is more descriptive than analytical
• Is a satisfactorily developed essay, demonstrating a general plan of organization
• Introduces the theme or problem by repeating the *Task* or *Historical Context* and concludes by simply repeating the theme or problem

Score of 2:
• Attempts to address some aspects of the *Task*, making limited use of the documents
• Presents no relevant outside information
• Includes few facts, examples, and details; discussion restates contents of the documents
• Is a poorly organized essay, lacking focus
• Fails to introduce or summarize the theme or problem

Score of 1:
• Shows limited understanding of the *Task* with vague, unclear references to the documents
• Presents no relevant outside information
• Includes little or no accurate or relevant facts, details, or examples
• Attempts to complete the *Task*, but demonstrates a major weakness in organization
• Fails to introduce or summarize the theme or problem

Score of 0: Fails to address the *Task*, is illegible, or is a blank paper

Name _____

Document 1

. . . Geography contributed powerfully to a policy of noninvolvement. A billowing ocean moat three thousand miles wide separated but did not completely isolate the American people from Europe. The brilliant young Alexander Hamilton pointed out in 1787, in Number 8 of the *Federalist Papers*, that England did not have to maintain a large standing army because the English Channel separated her from Europe. How much better situated, he noted, was the United States. His point was well taken, for geographical separation—not isolation—made possible the partial success of a policy of nonentanglement during most of the 19th Century. . . .

—Source: Thomas A. Bailey, A Diplomatic History of the American People, Prentice Hall, 1980

1 According to Thomas A. Bailey, how did geography contribute to the United States policy of noninvolvement?

Document 2

. . . The President [Thomas Jefferson] was playing for large stakes. Louisiana [Territory] stretched from the Mississippi westward to the Rocky Mountains, and from Canada's Lake of the Woods southward to the Gulf of Mexico. If annexed, these 825,000 square miles would give the new nation access to one of the world's potentially richest trading areas. The Missouri, Kansas,
Arkansas and Red rivers and their tributaries could act as giant funnels carrying goods into the Mississippi and then down to New Orleans. Even in the 1790s, with access to the Mississippi only from the east, the hundreds of thousands of Americans settled along the river depended on it and on the port of New Orleans for access to both world markets and imported staples for everyday living. "The Mississippi is to them everything," Secretary of State James Madison observed privately in November 1802. "It is the Hudson, the Delaware, the Potomac, and all the navigable rivers of the Atlantic formed into one stream.". . .

-- Source: Walter LaFeber, "An Expansionist's Dilemma," Constitution, Fall 1993

2 According to Walter LaFeber, what were *<u>two</u>* benefits to the United States from acquiring the Louisiana Territory?

Name _____

Document 3

. . . Other problems faced by wagoners [settlers] included howling wind, battering hail and electrical storms, lack of sufficient grass for the oxen, and wagon breakdowns. The forty waterless miles across the hot, shimmering desert between the Humboldt Sink and the Truckee River in Nevada exacted its toll of thirst on men and oxen. Rugged mountains of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington debilitated [weakened] men and animals. On the California branch loomed the Sierra Nevada, a formidable barrier of sheer granite. So high and perpendicular towered these granite walls, that wagons had to be dismantled and hoisted by rope, piece by piece, over precipices seven thousand feet above sea level. On some wagon trains, supplies ran low or became exhausted. Aid from California saved hundreds of destitute and emaciated pioneers. The story of the ill-fated Donner party that lost half its roster to starvation, freezing cold, and deep snows just east of Donner Pass in the Sierra Nevada is well-known. The great westward adventure was not for the weak, the timid, the infirm. One emigrant graphically recorded a small incident along the trail:

> *On the stormy, rainy nights in the vast open prairies without shelter or cover, the deep rolling or loud crashing thunder, the vivid and almost continuous flashes of lightning, and howling winds, the pelting rain, and the barking of coyotes, all combined to produce a feeling of loneliness and littleness impossible to describe. . . .*

-Source: H. Wilbur Hoffman, Sagas of Old Western Travel and Transport, Howell North Publishers, 1980

3 According to H. Wilbur Hoffman, what are *<u>two</u>* examples of how geography *negatively* affected the westward movement of settlers?

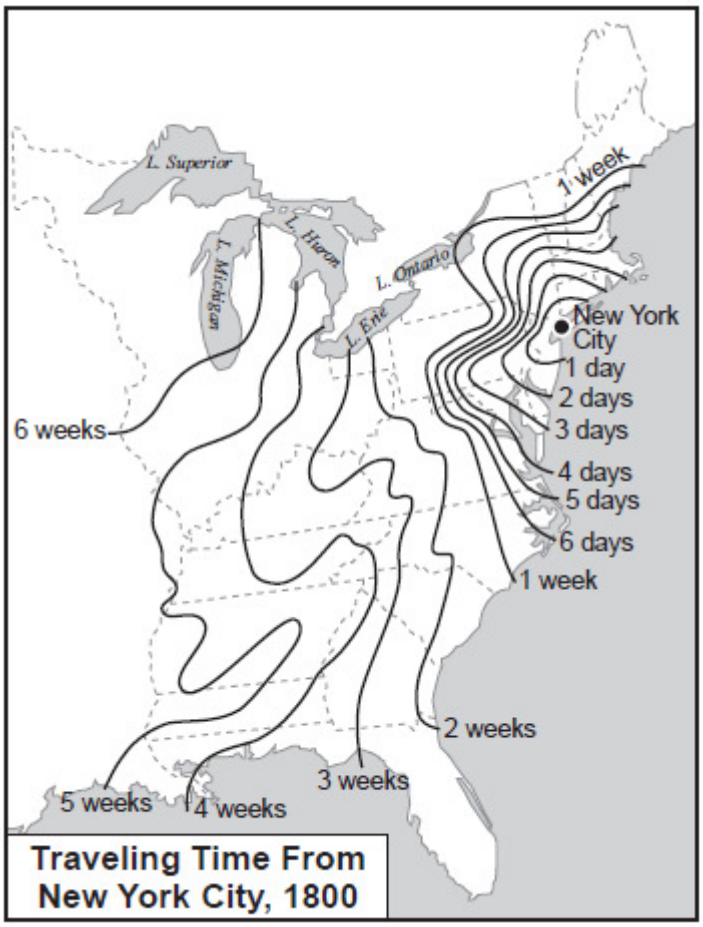
Name _____

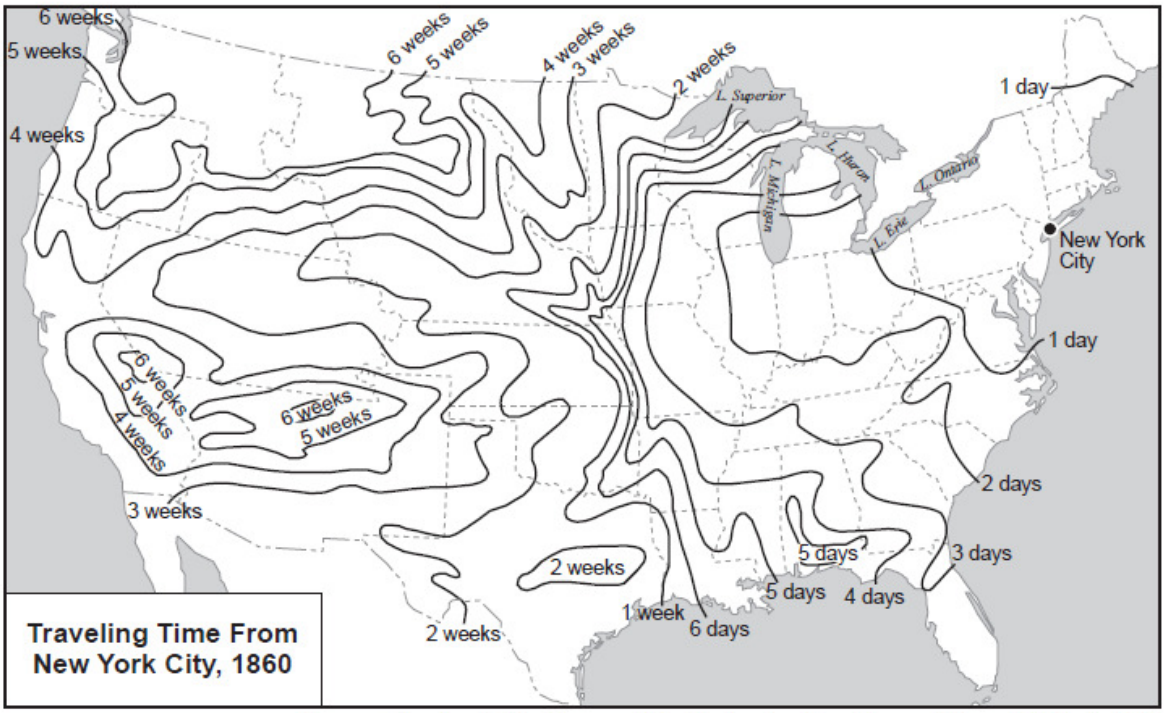
Document 4a

. . . Americans whose lives spanned the era from 1800 to 1850 must have been amazed at the changes in transportation that took place before their eyes. They saw the oxcart, the stage coach, the clumsy flatboat, ark, and scow, give way to the steamboat and to railroads run by steam power. They saw the channels of many rivers widened and deepened, thousands of miles of canals built in the North and West*, and thousands of miles of railroad lines threading their way across the country from the Atlantic coast toward the Mississippi River. They witnessed a transportation revolution. . . .

* In this passage, West refers to the area now known as the Midwest.

Document 4b





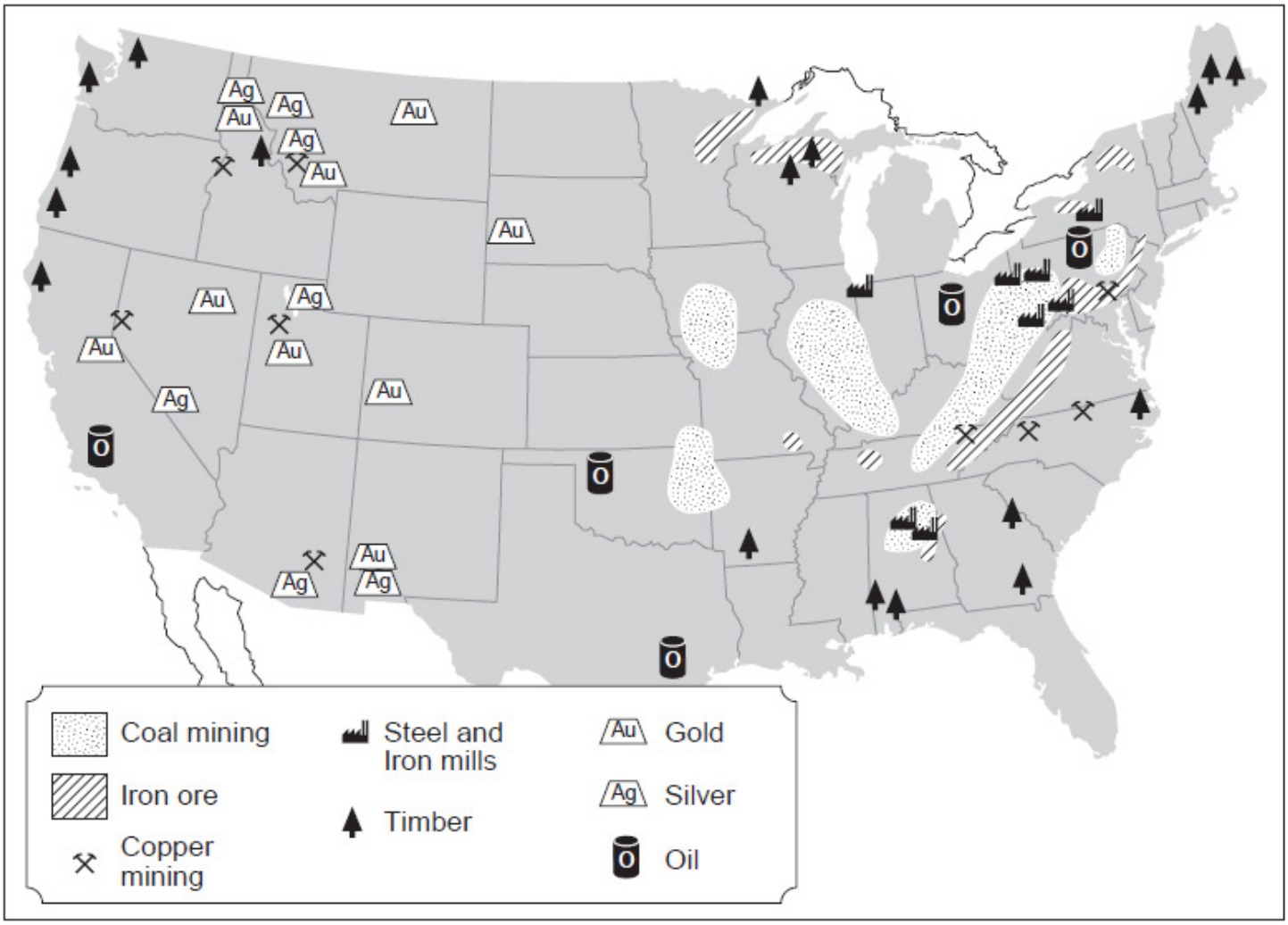
Source: Glyndon G. Van Deusen, *The Jacksonian Era*, Harper & Row, 1959 (adapted)

4 Based on these documents, what are *<u>two</u>* ways the size of the United States has affected its development?

Name _____

Document 5

Natural Resources and Select Industries, c. 1900



Source: *Our United States,* Silver Burdett Ginn, and *The Complete School Atlas,* Holt, Rinehart and Winston (adapted)

5) Based on this map, state *<u>one</u>* way natural resources have affected the economic development of the United States.

Name _____

Document 6

. . . For years conservationists had warned that ecological catastrophe hovered over the Great Plains. The so-called short-grass country west of the hundredth meridian was favored by fewer than twenty inches of rain a year. Early explorers had labeled the frontier beyond the Missouri "the great American desert," and then it was relatively stable, hammered flat by millions of bison and untilled by the Indians. Then the settlers arrived with their John Deere plows. Before the Depression they were blessed by extraordinarily heavy rains, but as they pushed their luck by overgrazing and overplowing, the ineludible [unavoidable] drew nearer. Even in the 1920s a hundred counties in Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma had been called the "dust bowl." Now in 1934 the National Resources Board estimated that 35 million acres of arable [productive] land had been completely destroyed, the soil of another 125 million acres had been nearly or entirely removed, and another 100 million acres were doomed. Abruptly the bowl grew to 756 counties in nineteen states. Like Ireland and the Ukraine in the nineteenth century, the Plains were threatened with famine. . . .

Source: William Manchester, The Glory and the Dream, Little Brown, 1974

6 According to William Manchester, what is *<u>one</u>* way climate affected farming on the Great Plains?

Name _____

Document 7a

European War Narrows the Atlantic



Source: Bailey and Kennedy, *The American Pageant*, D.C. Heath and Co.

Document 7b

. . . There are many among us who closed their eyes, from lack of interest or lack of knowledge; honestly and sincerely thinking that the many hundreds of miles of salt water made the American Hemisphere so remote that the people of North and Central and South America could go on living in the midst of their vast resources without reference to, or danger from, other Continents of the world.

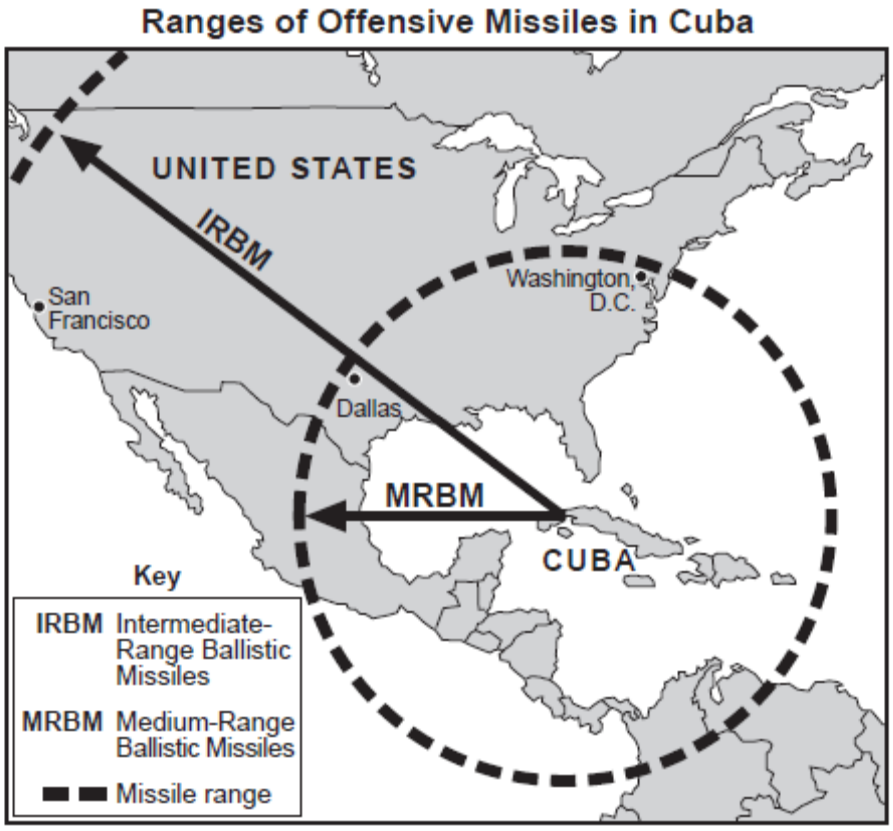
There are some among us who were persuaded by minority groups that we could maintain our physical safety by retiring within our continental boundaries—the Atlantic on the east, the Pacific on the west, Canada on the north and Mexico on the south. I illustrated the futility—the impossibility—of that idea in my Message to the Congress last week. Obviously, a defense policy based on that is merely to invite future attack. . . .

Source: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Fireside Chat, "On National Defense," May 26, 1940, FDR Library

7 Based on these documents, what is *<u>one</u>* way that the geographic location of the United States affected its foreign policy before World War II?

Name _____

Document 8



Source: James H. Hansen, "Soviet Deception in the Cuban Missile Crisis," *Studies in Intelligence: Journal of the American Intelligence Professional*, 2002 (adapted)

8 Based on this map, how did the location of Cuba influence the Cuban missile crisis?

Document 9

We're getting a painful lesson in economic geography. What Wall Street is to money, or Hollywood is to entertainment, the Gulf Coast is to energy. It's a vast assemblage of refineries, production platforms, storage tanks and pipelines—and the petroleum engineers, energy consultants and roustabouts [oil field workers] who make them run. Consider the concentration of energy activity. Oil production in the Gulf of Mexico accounts for nearly 30 percent of the U.S. total. Natural-gas production is roughly 20 percent. About 60 percent of the nation's oil imports arrive at Gulf ports. Nearly half of all U.S. oil refineries are there. [Hurricane] Katrina hit this immense system hard. The shock wave to the U.S. and world economies—which could vary from a temporary run-up in prices to a full-blown global recession—depends on how quickly America's energy-industrial complex repairs itself. . . .

Source: Robert J. Samuelson, "Hitting the Economy," Newsweek, September 12, 2005

9 According to Robert J. Samuelson, what is *<u>one</u>* reason the Gulf Coast is important to the *economy* of the United States?

Name _____

Multiple Choice Review

1. **Which city is paired with the geographical feature that directly contributed to its growth?**
   A. San Francisco – Rocky Mountains
   B. New Orleans – Mississippi River
   C. Pittsburgh – Hudson River
   D. Cleveland – Atlantic Coastal Plain

2. **Which geographic advantage did the United States gain by purchasing the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803?**
   A. warm-water ports on the Atlantic coast
   B. rich fishing areas in the Great Lakes
   C. full control of the Mississippi River
   D. vast coal reserves in the region west of Pennsylvania

3. **Which group benefited most from the United States acquisition of the port of New Orleans?**
   A. farmers in the Ohio River Valley
   B. Native American Indians in the Southwest
   C. fur trappers in the Columbia River Valley
   D. gold miners in northern California

4. **In the early 1800's, the need for a water route to help farmers ship their products to market was one reason for the**
   A. Gadsden Purchase
   B. Louisiana Purchase
   C. Mexican Cession
   D. Missouri Compromise

5. **Acquiring New Orleans as part of the Louisiana Purchase was considered important to the development of the Mississippi and Ohio River valleys because the city**
   A. provided protection from attacks by the Spanish
   B. provided migrant workers for river valley farms
   C. served as a port for American agricultural goods
   D. served as the cultural center for the nation

6. **Farmers in the Ohio River valley gained the greatest economic benefit when the United States acquired the**
   A. Oregon Territory
   B. Gadsden Purchase
   C. Louisiana Territory
   D. Mexican Cession

7. **Since the late 1700s, the Mississippi River has been a vital waterway because it**
   A. divided the northern territories from the southern territories
   B. allowed American farmers direct access to Canadian markets
   C. connected the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean
   D. provided farmers and merchants an outlet to the Gulf of Mexico

Name _____

Geography DBQ Essay Outline*

Introduction
Body 1 - Negative effects of geography on the development US **Topic Sentence –** Geography has affected the development of the US in many negative ways.
Body 2 – Positive effects of geography on the development US **Topic Sentence –** Geography has affected the development of the US in many positive ways.
Conclusion

*This is a super simplified way to write your essay and will probably only get you a 3. You need to include lots of relevant outside information and original thoughts that goes beyond a simple restatement of the class to be at a 5.