

Sample Jamestown Paragraph with Comments

Poor conditions in England motivated people to settle in Virginia and made conflict between the English and Powhatan inevitable.

England was in bad shape in the 1600's because it was overpopulated and very poor. There were some wealthy people but they owned most of the land and most people were landless and poor. Many beggars lived in the streets of the cities and the life of the average English person was pretty miserable. All of these factors motivated many English people to seek a better life in the New World and many came to settle in Jamestown, England's first permanent colony in America. Often misled by stories and false advertisements, people came to Virginia expecting available land, comfortable surroundings, and greater opportunities than they had back in England. Virginia, it turned out, was already owned and populated by the Powhatan tribe

which set the stage for a conflict that was impossible to avoid. The streams of people leaving England for a better life would not stop and once here people did not go back. The English people felt desperate and greedy and understood that a better life in America meant conflict with its native people and that is exactly what happened. The desperation caused by shortages and poverty in England led to conflict being inevitable between the two groups. No matter how hard people may have tried to have a peaceful existence, the desirous people made it impossible for the two groups to get along and eventually there would be conflict. The poor conditions in England were not going to change and this led to bad mindsets and these factors guaranteed conflict with the Indians once the English settled in Jamestown.

Aly Lakhaney 12/3/2013 5:10 PM

Comment [1]: This is a good topic sentence because it properly describes the point of the paragraph but also connects to my thesis that conflict was inevitable. It also briefly mentions a reason.

Aly Lakhaney 12/3/2013 5:11 PM

Comment [2]: Specific historical information and ideas that are clearly and logically developed. There is some analysis and explanation here as well.

Aly Lakhaney 12/11/2014 4:45 PM

Comment [3]: Notice here that I mentioned the idea of mindsets which would be a nice transition to my next paragraph about the mindsets of the two groups. That topic would logically come after this topic.

Aly Lakhaney 12/3/2013 5:12 PM

Comment [4]: Here I'm talking about why the evidence I discussed earlier would lead to an inevitable conflict. I'm answering the question and explaining my ideas. This is not just one sentence but a few sentences that clearly and logically tie together the evidence with my own ideas and my own thesis. This is my reasoning and my explanation of why my thesis is correct.