A yellow pencil is positioned diagonally across the bottom of the frame, pointing towards the right. In the background, a stack of books is visible, with a blue cover on top and white pages below. The entire scene is softly blurred, creating a sense of depth and focus on the text.

How do I do well on the High School Social Studies Gateway?

2009-2010

Getting Started

Making the Right Choice:

- One of the most important keys to your success is selecting the Writing Task Choice that will give the best reflection of what you know. As you begin the test, make sure you read both choices and the documents before doing the following things.
- Think of how you would respond to each task.
- On the pages in the back of the task folder, jot down what you know about each task from the documents and from your classes.
- Ask yourself, which choice do you have the most information and facts?
- Then think, for which choice do you already have the better response forming in your head?
- Write on that topic.

- e3 Use the term scorers rather than graders
e199300001, 1/26/2010
- e4 awkward statement
e199300001, 1/26/2010
- e5 Use another term rather than answer to communicate it is more than a single or short answer
e199300001, 1/26/2010

- Before you begin the first draft, read the choice again.



Prewriting activities: An Important Step!

- Brainstorm how you will respond to each part of the task. For example, if you were writing about the Constitution of the United States, you might make notes on writers, timeline, preamble, Bill of Rights, Philadelphia, Articles of Confederation, republican form of government, separation of powers, amendments, etc.
- Take time to get your thoughts together by making an outline, Venn diagram, chart or other graphic organizer to help you plan how you will write your response.
- Decide how to use the information from the documents provided.

e6

You will receive a score in social studies and language arts. This section will help you to better understand the social studies aspects.

e6

instead of graded use, will receive a score
e199300001, 1/26/2010

Here is one choice in a sample task:

e7

Historical Background:

The **French Revolution** was a period of major political and social change in the political history of France and Europe as a whole, during which the French government underwent radical change.

Use Historical Background for building your thesis.

Use this direction to build your thesis statement

Writing Task Choice # 1: French Revolution

Discuss how the French Revolution changed the lives of the common citizens in the years that followed. In your essay, be sure to do the following.

- Explain the citizen's role in the French Revolution,
- Discuss the citizens' rights under the new government, and
- Compare French society before and after the French Revolution. .

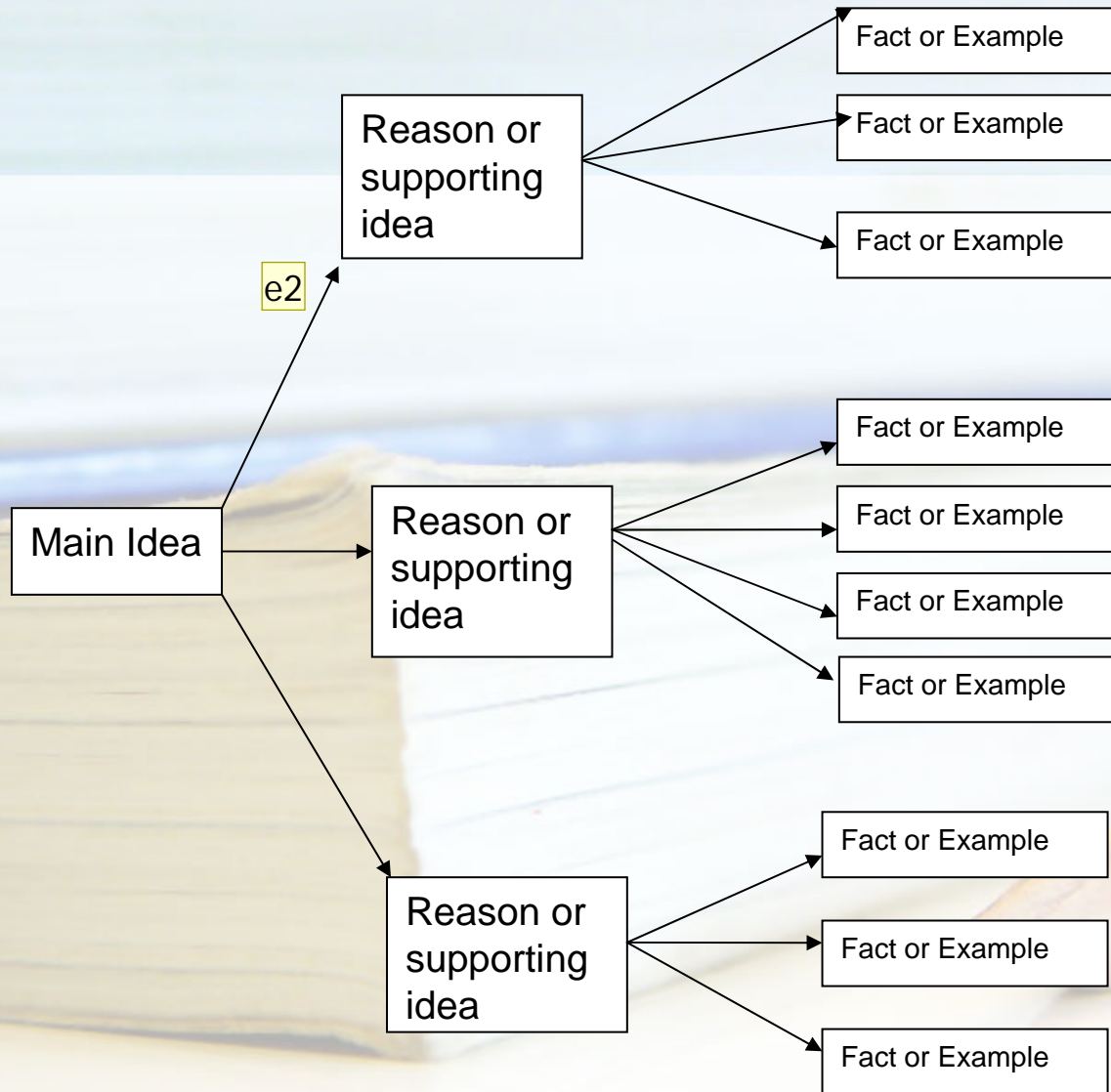
Use what is in each bullet as a supporting idea of your thesis

e7

spell out HB

e199300001, 1/26/2010

Brainstorming/Thesis Building ^{e1} Process



Students may add or delete boxes as needed.

e1 **Expand and center**
e199300001, 1/26/2010

e2 **Reduce the arrow to appear outside box**
e199300001, 1/26/2010

The social studies rubric consists of THREE categories:

- FOCUS AND DEVELOPMENT (1-6)
- KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF INFORMATION (1-6)
- ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION (1-6)
- You will receive a score of 1-6 in *EACH* category as denoted above, but what do you need to do to score well? WELL. . .

FOCUS AND DEVELOPMENT:

Do you understand the question fully?

- Answer ALL parts of the question. That means if there are three bullet points then you *must* answer all three points with supporting evidence.
- Stay FOCUSED. For example, if the topic is Puritans in England, do not talk about Egyptians (unless making some relevant comparison)
- Develop the essay. How? Use details and evidence. (in other words, support or back up what you say)
- Develop a good thesis statement.
 - Determine one main idea based on the task given
 - Be direct and concise (to the point)
 - Incorporate ideas identified in the “bullets” with at least one developed idea for each bullet.

e8

delete that

e199300001, 1/26/2010

KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF INFORMATION:

What do you know about the topic?

- Use facts that are ACCURATE and RELEVANT
- Absolutely show PRIOR KNOWLEDGE. Give facts, ideas, etc. that you learned from **your** class or what you have read from another source. Use information that is *not* given to you in the documents, but that you know.
- Use the DOCUMENTS provided to support your prior knowledge and *cite* your sources. For example, if you pull something from the first document, you might cite it like this----(Doc. A).
- Use social studies vocabulary. That means words that are particular to the topic and world history, such as "political", "social", "economy", "culture", "technology", etc.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Do you understand what you are talking about?

- Show readers that you really know what you are talking about (relating to the topic).
- Make some generalizations (use the information you have and apply it to a broad topic) and draw some conclusions (show relationships between things you've discussed in your essay)
- Relate your essay to other periods in history (Ask yourself what does all of this mean and try to incorporate the answer to that question into your essay.)

Important to Remember...

- You SHOULD attempt to write a multi-paragraph essay complete with an INTRODUCTION, BODY, and CONCLUSION.
- You SHOULD NOT copy straight from the packet. For example- do NOT write an entire essay saying : *Document A says.....Document B states...Document C states.....* and so on.
- When you are using documents, put the information in your own words.
- Do not copy the historical background as your introduction or conclusion.

Language Arts- What should I do?

- Do some brainstorming to get your ideas together before you start your essay.
- Go through the documents for that writing choice and decide which ideas in the essay they will support. Don't forget to include the ideas and document them.
- Write a first draft and then recopy it as neatly as possible. (You do not have to double space.)

Language Arts

- Try to find a creative way to open your essay. Quotes, questions, shocking statements, and interesting facts are always good options. Relate your introduction to the scenario. e11
- Make smooth transitions between paragraphs and ideas within paragraphs.
- Do not re-state what you have already said. Provide a good conclusion that sums up your paper and leaves your reader with something to think about. e12

e11 Relate your introduction to the scenario

e199300001, 1/27/2010

e12 Do not restate what you have already said

e199300001, 1/27/2010

Language Arts

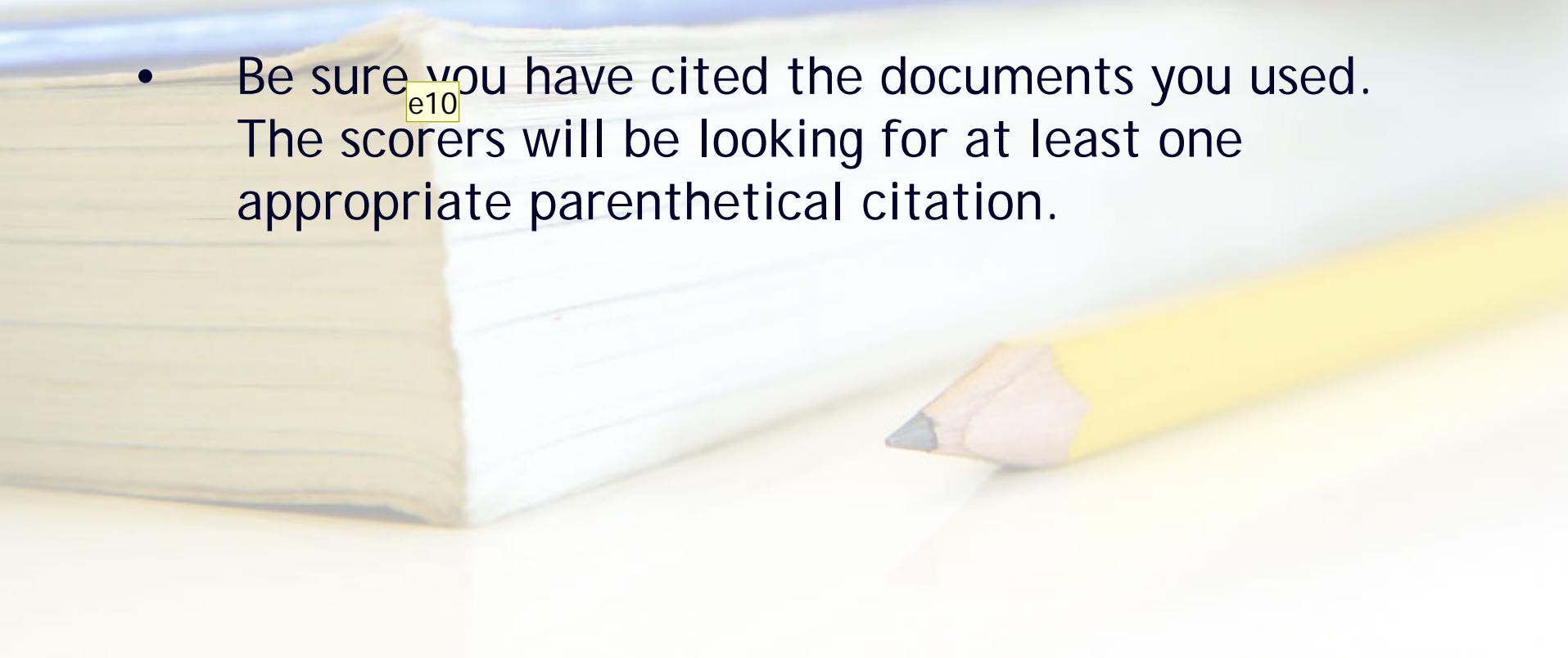
- Use interesting, precise vocabulary. Stay away from generic words and phrases (such as “something,” “stuff,” etc.) and slang. It is better to misspell a high-level vocabulary word than to use a word that is too simple or general. (fluency)
- Mix up your sentences. Include long and short sentences, compound, complex, compound-complex, and simple sentences. Your sentence structure should not be choppy or repetitive. (fluency)

Language Arts

e9

- After you write your first draft, read it over and edit for spelling, grammar, etc. (conventions)
- Be sure you have cited the documents you used. The scorers will be looking for at least one appropriate parenthetical citation.

e10



e9 check font or size
e199300001, 1/26/2010

e10 scorers
e199300001, 1/26/2010

Language Arts

- Reread your essay, making sure it makes sense to the reader. You must assume they know nothing and you are the expert.
- Your goal is to explain the topic to them so they have no doubt that you are knowledgeable and can communicate well.

The background of the slide features a stack of books on the left and a yellow pencil lying horizontally on the right. The books are slightly out of focus, and the pencil is also blurred, creating a soft, educational atmosphere. The text is overlaid on this background.

You need to be:

- Knowledgeable
 - Confident
 - Competent

And you will do well!