

Introduction and the thesis statement.

THE THESIS STATEMENT: The deaths of over one million Armenians in Turkey were due to a Turkish government policy of genocide.

The first headline: The Ottoman government abuses so called ‘security’ measures between 1915 and 1918 in order to perpetuate atrocities against Armenians.

a. The government arrested hundreds of Armenian leaders in Istanbul (many of them intellectual figures rather than politicians) over April 24 and 25. April

b. Arrests, local deportations, and massacres occurred on a relatively small scale into April 1915, when conflict erupted in the city of Van. (

c. The Telchir Law (the Temporary Law of Deportation) of May 1915 – removal of the Armenian forces in Syria.

The second headline: Massacres Were the Policy of at Least Segments of the Government

a. In Istanbul, the Ministry of the Interior (headed by Mehmet Tahkal) and the Ministry of War (led by Enver Pasha) directed provincial governors to undertake the deportations.

b. The duration of the events: more than three years: suggests that the central government did not step in to stop them

c Ultimately tens of thousands of civil servants, police, and military personnel became complicit once the

deportations began killing hundreds of thousands of people.

The third headline: The Goal Was the Elimination of the Armenian

People from Anatolia

- a. The government portrayed Armenians as ‘traitors’ and as scapegoats for the problems of the society
- b. The government sustained massive genocide in order to prevent the secession of Anatolia
- c. The Young Turk leaders considered the removal of not only the Armenians, but also Greeks and others.

(Commentary:

a) A precise formulation of the thesis statement:

b) vertical thinking and consistence: each headline contains the same key words as the thesis statement or its synonyms: government, (the government’s goal), massacre, atrocities,

c) the specification of examples:

at least three examples are needed: each example answers at least one which question (the example from the first headline to question where? Answers by stating: in the city of Van, and to the question: when?, it answers by the question: in the April 1915). Or who? The Young Turk leaders)

I would not tolerate underspecified examples!

You have to pay attention to four elements:

1) A well formed thesis: If you do not have a well formed thesis statement, you will get zero points regardless of your examples and headlines.

2) Logical consistence of headlines

3) Exhaustive number of examples.

4) specification of examples