Underlying Causes of WWI

Pre-Write Outline

**Intro Paragraph**

Grabber: In the end, no one was singing about the glories of war.

Background: War lasted four long years—1914-1918. 10 million dead; 20 million wounded

Stating the question with key terms defined:

What were the underlying causes of this tragedy? MAINE

Thesis: Of these \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were most important.

**First Body Paragraph**

Topic Sentence (Claim): Alliances were one key contributor to the war.

Evidence & be sure to include a POV statement:

Triple Alliance: Germany, A-H, Italy (Doc A)

Triple Entente: France, Russia, Britain (Doc A)

Following Archduke Francis Ferdinand’s assassination, finger pointing reflected

alliance ties (Doc B)

Analysis: Assassination might have remained a regional incident without alliance obligations. Alliances made a local conflict continental.

**Second Body Paragraph**

Topic Sentence (Claim): A second basic cause was militarism, or arms build-up.

Evidence & be sure to include a POV statement:

Arms spending: 140 million pounds in 1890 to 540 million in 1914 (Doc C)

German arms increase was fourfold: 30 to 120 million pounds (Doc C)

Von Bulow: Germany must choose to be “hammer” or “ anvil” (Doc D)

**Third Body Paragraph**

Topic Sentence (Claim): Imperialism was the most fundamental cause of World War I.

Evidence & be sure to include a POV statement:

Tremendous possessions gap between Germany/A-H and England(Britain)/France.

England had more than 12 million sq. miles of colonial possessions; France 4,000,000 plus; Germany a bit more than 1 million; A-H had 0 (Doc F)

Analysis: Colonial imbalance caused tension. Germany & A-H playing catch-up. Britain seen as an octopus sucking natural resources out of their African & Asian colonies (Doc E)

This could lead Germany & A-H to believe they needed alliance and arms build up to get their share of the resources, cheap labor and markets.

**Conclusion Paragraph**

Five long-term causes contributed to the war. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were certainly a part of the problem, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were the main drivers in pitting all European super-six powers against each other.