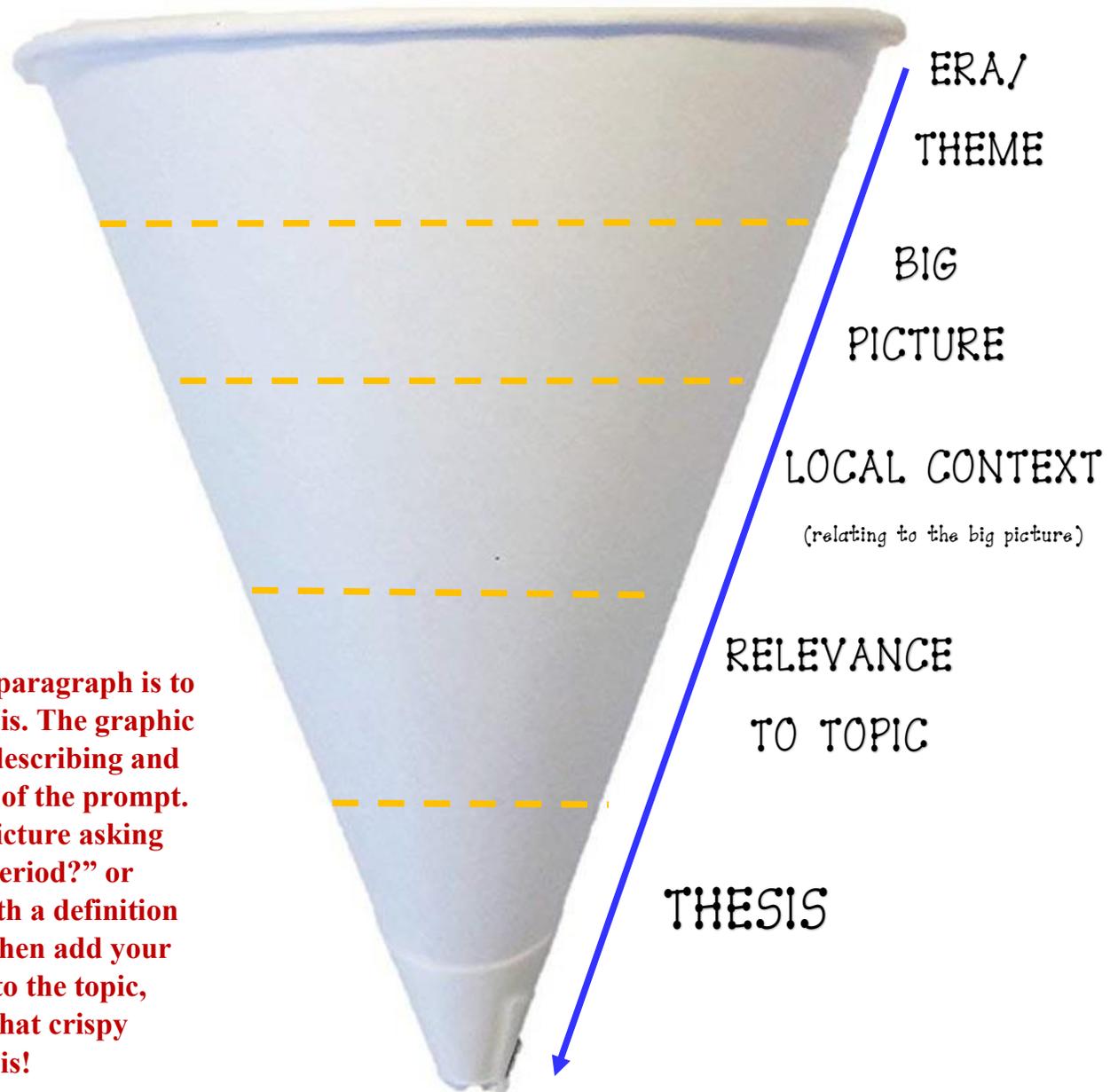


WELCOME TO



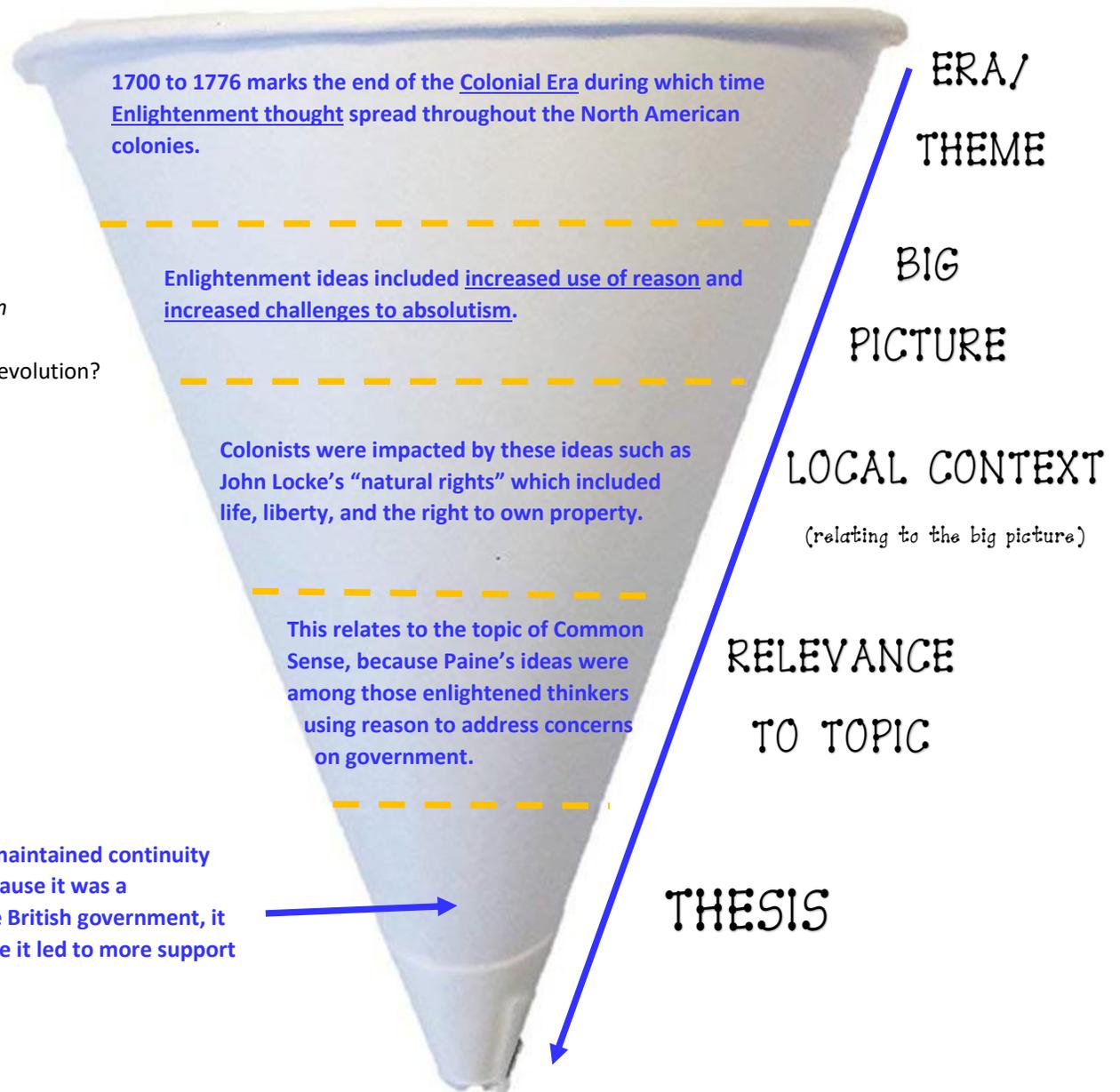
*HOME OF CONTEXTUALIZATION  
AND THESIS STATEMENTS*

**One way to approach your introductory paragraph is to start broad and funnel down to your thesis. The graphic at right illustrates this process. Start by describing and identifying the overarching theme or era of the prompt. Then focus on the broad context or big picture asking yourself, “What is going on in this time period?” or “what is the big picture?” Follow that with a definition of the topic or event (local context), and then add your connector statement of “This is relevant to the topic, because...” Finally, you have arrived at that crispy nugget at the bottom of the cone, the thesis!**



# SAMPLE

**Prompt:** To what extent did Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* maintain continuity and foster change in popular support among colonists for the American Revolution? Confine your analysis to 1700-1776.



Although Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* maintained continuity among many colonists from 1700-1776 because it was a continuation of a trend to rebel against the British government, it fostered change to a greater extent because it led to more support for independence.