

## Argument Paragraph Sample

THE SPUTNIK INCIDENT WAS THE POINT OF HIGHEST TENSION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION DURING THE COLD WAR. **The Sputnik incident occurred in 1957 and involved the Soviet Union shocking the rest of the world by sending the first satellite into space. This put Soviets in the lead for the “Space Race” and created the implication that the Soviets might have the ability to launch a nuclear weapon from space.** Sputnik created a sense of defeat on a global scale for the United States as they had previously been looked to as the world’s super power. It also made the threat of the unknown dire, which obviously escalated tension between the two countries. Since Sputnik occurred in 1957, the United States and the Soviet Union had already been vying for global dominance for some time, so this event was received by the United States with greater trepidation. *While some may argue that Sputnik was only a precursor to more intense events in the Cold War (like the Bay of Pigs), in actuality Sputnik was still the point of greatest tension because it involved a direct threat to American soil and forced the United States into a defensive position, whereas most other events maintained US offense.*

CLAIM

**Evidence**

Reasoning

*Counterclaim*