Thesis Statement On the eve of the French revolution the Third Estate had many grievances to be addressed by the monarch. The Third Estate consisted of the bourgeoisie, peasants, urban poor, and women. Among the most apparent problems at this time was the political structure of France, as the French monarchy opposed the ideas of popular sovereignty, a major grievance for the Third Estate. The peasants, urban poor, and women were most affected by France’s poor economic state. The bourgeoisie was more concerned with politics and proper representation. However, it is the bourgeoisie that is most successful in addressing its grievances throughout this period.

Topic Sentence: The lower classes among the Third Estate, such as the peasants and urban poor, were most concerned with the effect of France’s financial crisis upon them.

1. Peasants: Taxes, federal obligations, agricultural problems/high prices of bread, protection form nobility, politics
2. Urban Poor: high grain prices, unemployment
3. Women: price of bread and civil rights
4. Financial crisis from lack of income based on the taxation system and overspending
5. Poor harvest made times hard and peasants were subject to all taxes, which led to strong resentment as the nobles were exempt from many taxes, and the clergy from all taxes
6. Peasants launched a widespread attack on noble; “The Great Fear”
7. The cost of bread led to the women’s march on Versailles

Topic Sentence: Among the all the groups the bourgeoisies was most successful in imitating change and producing reform for the Third Estate.

1. Found out their chamber for representatives had been locked
2. Went to local tennis court, took tennis court oath vowing not to back down until a new constitution was form
3. Louis XVI granted that the estates general combine into one body called the National Assembly
4. Resulting in more political power for 3rd estate, a new constitution, Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen: universal male suffrage, levied taxes among classes
5. This would eventually lead into the next government; Legislative Assembly defining passive and active citizens, limited monarchy, religious toleration
6. The Jacobins would then take over with the Reign of Terror with dictatorship by Jean-Jacques Rousseau
7. Directory is last form of government