

9th Grade U.S. & World History 2015-2016 Standard
Term 1 Essay:
Date 10/9/15
Handout # 20

PROMPT (6 Paragraphs):

What major historical, political and technological changes in the Middle-Ages led to an Italian born, Portuguese educated, Spanish backed explorer to look for a new water passage to India and China using the Atlantic Ocean? You must select 3 of the following historical events, people and/or technological inventions.

LIST OF EVENTS, PEOPLE & TECHNOLOGICAL INVENTIONS (What you are saying that without your 3 choices, that Columbus would not have sailed “the ocean blue”):

1. Bartolome Dias, Vasco da Gama & Portuguese Indian Ocean Networks
2. Chinese Inventions of the Middle Ages
3. Crusades
4. Fall of Feudalism
5. Fall of the Roman Empire
6. Ferdinand II, Isabella & Reconquista
7. Genghis Khan & the Mongolian Empire
8. Gutenberg’s Printing Press
9. Italian and Muslim Monopoly of the Silk Road
10. King John I signs the Magna Carta
11. Kublai Khan
12. Marco Polo
13. Prince Henry the Navigator, Portuguese Navigation Schools & the Caravel
14. Renaissance
15. Rise of Christianity and the Catholic Church
16. Rise of Islam and Muslim Empires

Paragraph 1: Introduction: Hook, Historical Background & Thesis.

Paragraph 2: Event, Person/People or Technological invention 1

Paragraph 3: Event, Person/People or Technological invention 2

Paragraph 4: Event, Person/People or Technological invention 3

Paragraph 5: Counter-Argument: Select and explain why some people may argue that this event, person or technological invention (an event, person/people or technological invention that you did not choose) led to the rise of the Age of Exploration and the “discovery” of the Americas by Columbus. Then explain, why your 3 selections of events, person/people or technological inventions are still more powerful reasons for the rise of the Age of Exploration and the eventual “discovery” of the Americas by Columbus than the 4th choice (the counter argument).

Paragraph 6: Conclusion (don’t make it repetitive).

HINTS & OTHER INFORMATION:

- Look at the rubric first!
- This paper is designed to be the first step of getting you writing closer to the research paper that all students must complete during the 3rd and 4th terms. This is not a research paper and as a result **you may only quote or paraphrase the textbook or handouts that Mr. Spargo and I gave to you!**
- You may use your background knowledge!
- **Doubled Spaced, 12 New Times Roman** for this and every term paper that we give
- If you quote or paraphrase the textbook or any of the handouts that we gave to you, than you need internal citations and a works cited page (**no additional resources are allowed**)

HEADING:

- You do not need a cover page
- Please follow the heading example (top left corner of the 1st page, but only for the FINAL draft)

Student Name

9th Grade U.S. & World History I Standard

Mr. Pitts-Dilley

Date

IMPORTANT DAYS (YOU NEVER HAVE TO SUBMIT A PRINTED COPY):

- **Tuesday, OCTOBER 13:** The Introduction on turnitin.com is due by 11:59PM (**NO HEADING**)
- **Friday, OCTOBER 16th:** Your 3 peer edits are due on turnitin.com by 11:59PM (**The assignment starts on Wednesday, October 14th**)
- **Tuesday, October 20th:** The FIRST DRAFT IS DUE ON Turnitin.com by 11:59PM (**NO HEADING**) (**You will be able to read your feedback starting on Saturday, October 17th**)
- **Friday, October 22nd:** Your 4 peer edits are due on turnitin.com by 11:59PM
- **Wednesday, October 27th:** The final draft is due by 11:59PM (**20% penalty per late day AND YES, YOU NEED THE HEADING**)
- There will be additional homework assignments being distributed so plan ahead!