

### Middle East Unit: World Religions Essay

Goal: Understands several selected belief systems (religions, cultural practices) that have existed over time.

Overview: In our unit we learned about three religions that all arose from one region of the world. These were Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, all arising around Israel and the Middle East. For this project, you will be writing an essay comparing the three religions. You will need to explain what makes them the same, and what makes them different. You need to compare at least three different things about each faith. Step-by-step directions can be found on the back.

#### Rubric:

	1	2	3	4
Content	Student accurately compares Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in one or less areas.  (40 points)	Student accurately compares Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in two different areas.  (60 points)	Student accurately compares Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in three different areas.  (75 points)	Essay compares the religions in at least one area we did not cover in class, in addition to completing the "3" column.  (80 points)
Punctuation	Paper has more than 5 errors.  (2 points)	Paper has 3-5 errors.  (5 points)	Paper has 1-2 errors.  (8 points)	Paper has no errors.  (10 points)
Introduction	Paper has no introduction that attempts to hook or layout the main points.  (2 points)	Paper has an introduction that attempts to hook or lay out the main points, but is confusing or repetitive.  (5 points)	Paper has an introduction that lays out the main points of the essay  (8 points).	Paper has a strong introduction that hooks the reader.  (10 points)

Step by step directions:

1. Choose one piece of the religion you want to compare (for example: it's history, how they view god, moral code, major figures/prophets, holidays/celebrations, views on the afterlife, how it affects their daily life, etc).
2. Fill in the graphic organizer we got in class to help you with comparing. You may want to use your classwork from earlier to help you.
3. Using the graphic organizer to write paragraphs 2-4 for your essay. Add as many specific details as you can.
4. Write an introduction to your essay. Make sure you either hook your readers in or at least lay out what you will be saying in the essay.
5. Create a conclusion about the religions. This should include information on how they are the same and how they are different.
6. Look over your project and the rubric on the front of this paper. Do you "meet the standard"? If not, what should you work on doing now? Do this. If you can't find anything, have a peer or Mr. Reed look it over.
7. Place your project in the hand-in basket or email it to Mr. Reed.