

3 WORLD HISTORY I RESEARCH PAPER: "The Spirit of the Renaissance"

Goals:

- 1) To develop an understanding of the Renaissance spirit through researching a historical figure and work of the period.
- 2) To develop skills in research, in-text citations, and MLA formatting.

Assignment: How did your historical figure and their work embody and contribute to the spirit of the Renaissance? Answer in a well-developed and well-researched five (5) paragraph research paper of 3-5 pages. **You are not writing a biography. You are creating a historical analysis of an important Renaissance figure and an equally important contribution to the Renaissance through a noted work of the era.**

Summary: The history of the Renaissance is filled with people and events that not only shaped the history of Europe but also impacted the world and the story of humanity. Perhaps no other time period had a spirit that has so influenced the way humankind looks at itself.

The Renaissance by its very definition was a "rebirth" of ancient times, but to embrace this rather simplistic notion in its entirety results in a denial of the many radical changes that occurred as Europe left the "starry night" of the Middle Ages and found itself in a very new place. Beginning in early 15th century Italy, the movement would soon reverberate throughout the rest of Europe and beyond.

The period gave birth to many important figures who began to embrace the ideas of the past while looking to challenge the present. With the restoration of secular humanist values whose roots are found in the golden ages of Greece and Rome, man had once again become the "measure of all things". Man's search for meaning was no longer limited to those that called themselves "philosophers", but to everyone who was a part of the newly enlightened population of the 15th and 16th centuries.

The great figures of the time period took hold of the rejuvenated spirit of individuality and creativity and created a world whose hallmarks continue to shape our understanding of our history and ourselves. These representatives of the Renaissance, inspired by the past, creatively, intellectually, and spiritually, ushered in the modern age—and did so with a flourish that the world may never encounter again.

It is now your task to add your definition to the Renaissance that goes beyond the simple notion of rebirth and delves into the complexities of the age. Through the historical figures of the time period and their works, consider how the spirit of the Renaissance was a complicated balance of ancient and modern; evolution and revolution; and rediscovery and discovery. Express how it was a "rebirth", but also something quite new. Good luck.

Research Criteria:

- 1) Focus on the particular person and influential work to which you are assigned.
- 2) Research in the school library and on your own time. Most of your research must take place outside of class, so *plan ahead*.
- 3) You must have a total of *at least 5 varied and credible sources*. **At least two of the five** sources must be print sources. The HHS LMC has set out a cart of such books for your use. At least three of your sources must be cited in the paper for a total of 12 citations. (You cannot use a general encyclopedia ex. Encarta, Wikipedia or your textbook!)
- 4) The paper must be *three to five pages*.
- 5) Use required MLA format: 12 point font (Times New Roman), typed, double-spaced, one inch margins, proper heading, original title, numbered pages at top right, in-text citations, and a works cited page.
- 5) See additional pages for specific details on content and organization.

Task:	Due Date:	% of Assignment
1. Guide Sheet	3/28	5
2. Sources and Notes (3 sources), at least 30 notes total, min. of 5 notes per source.	4/8	5
3. Sources and Notes (2 more sources), at least 20 notes total, min. of 5 notes per source.	4/10	5
4. Works Cited Page	4/17	5
5. Thesis Statement (must be approved before you write your outline.)	4/17	5
6. Outline	5/1	5
For the first six steps, the assigned grade can be increased with teacher approval if you choose to revise your work for a higher grade.		
7. First Draft (complete)	One week after outline is passed back	20
8. Final Draft (complete)	One week after First Draft is passed back	50

Schedule:

	A Block	B Block
LMC	Mon 3/31, Tues 4/1, Wed 4/2	Mon 3/31, Tues 4/1
PC Lab	Tues 4/8, Wed 4/9	Wed 4/2, Tues 4/8, Wed 4/9

Reminders:

- 1) **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** Any form of plagiarism will result in a zero for the entire project. Plagiarism involves using another entity's ideas and/or words and not giving credit to the source. Give credit to your sources through in-text citations and works cited entries whenever you use:
 - a) another person's idea, opinion, or theory
 - b) facts, statistics, graphs, drawings, anecdotes, etc...
 - c) quotations of another person's spoken or written words
 - d) paraphrase of another person's spoken or written words.
- 2) **If you need help, please ask before the deadlines.** You must work ahead so that you meet each deadline.

STEP #1: Guide Sheet

Directions: Do some internet research and write a brief biography of the figure you have been assigned AND the work you have been assigned. You should write 7-10 sentences. Your writing should be typed and double-spaced. At the bottom of the page, include a list of any websites you consulted to write your biography.

Place the guide sheet in the front of your binder.

STEPS #2-3: Sources/Notes

Directions: You will need a one-inch three-ring binder with tab dividers for each source.

Make sure to list all page numbers for notes taken from print sources!

Unless you're directly quoting from a source, use your own words. This will greatly decrease your risk of accidental plagiarism.

You need at least 50 notes however each source must have a minimum of 5 notes!

There will be a **coding system** for your notes. Each note will have the following placed before it. Below is an example for a U.S. History paper:

Each start to a section of notes should have the entire source written in MLA format. This comes from a book written by David Kennedy.

Kennedy, David M. *Freedom from Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945*. New York: Oxford UP, 1999. 162-72. Print.

(2) (162) "The more than five thousand bank failures between the Crash and the New Deal's rescue operation in March 1933 wiped out some \$7 billion in depositors money."

(1) (170) 62% of eastern Kentucky's mining regions looked to federal relief to survive

TOTAL=2

Example of Coding System Explained:

(2) would associated with the second DI. The sentence was copied down word for word because it may be used as a direct quote. The note came from page 162.

(1) would be associated with the first DI. This was not written down word for word because this information may be used to support a point. The note came from page 170.

TOTAL=the number of notes you have taken on that particular source.

By keeping your notes coded, you can more easily recognize how much material you have on a given DI.

STEP #4 Works Cited

Directions:

1. Sources must be in MLA format. Example is below:

Words Cited

Cappo, Claudia, and Sean Riley. Bosch~Tate and The Northern Ireland. New York: Avenel Books, 1956.

Gordon, E.D. The Story of Simony. -. Phaidon Inc. Limited, 2012.

Grippa, Lawrence. Biographical Encyclopedia of Artists, vol. 2. Boston: Facts on File, Inc., 2002.

STEP #5: THESIS STATEMENT

Directions: Use the chart below to brainstorm ideas and develop your initial hypothesis/thesis.

Develop an understanding of the assignment question by defining the following words:

- embody:
- contribute:
- spirit:
- Renaissance:

Reword the assignment question in your own words:

Explain your understanding of the "spirit of the Renaissance".

Who was my figure? How did (s)he seem to contribute to and embody the Renaissance?

What was his/her work? How did this work seem to contribute to and embody the Renaissance?

Thesis:

Revised Thesis:

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STEP #6: OUTLINE

Directions: Type your outline according to the following example. Write your thesis, developmental ideas, and RFS in complete sentences. When you compose your paper, you will include your commentary (analysis of the facts) and concluding sentences.

I. Introduction – You must introduce and explain what the Renaissance was and the meaning of its "spirit".

II. Life

III. Work

IV. Legacy

V. Conclusion – You must not only summarize your main idea but RFS! Does the figure/work influence the world today? Does the Renaissance spirit still exist today?

Last Name pg#

Name

Mr. George

3 World History I

Date

Clever Title

I. Catchy attention-grabber for introduction paragraph

Thesis Statement: _____

II. Topic sentence for first body paragraph (Developmental Idea) How did the Renaissance influence your figure? (Life)

A. Developmental Detail

B. Developmental Detail

C. Developmental Detail (as many more as necessary)

III. Topic sentence for second body paragraph (Developmental Idea) How did the work embody the spirit of the Renaissance? (Work)

A. Developmental Detail

B. Developmental Detail

C. Developmental Detail (as many more as necessary)

IV. Topic sentence for third body paragraph (Developmental Idea) How did he/she impact the spirit of the Renaissance? (Legacy)

A. Developmental Detail

B. Developmental Detail

C. Developmental Detail (as many more as necessary)

V. Reach For Significance

THESIS PARAGRAPH (1 paragraph)

What led to the Renaissance?

What are the connections to your past studies? Think “evolution”.

What are the major events/ideas that led to the changes in this time period?

How was the Renaissance a rebirth, but also something quite new?

How did your historical figure and their work embody and contribute to the spirit of the Renaissance?

C. WORK NARRATIVE (1 paragraph)

How did the work embody the spirit of the Renaissance?

IV. 2nd Body Paragraph – You must describe the influential work and analyze how it embodied the spirit of the Renaissance. Why is your figure’s work a perfect example of what the Renaissance was all about? What was the work’s purpose and meaning? What conflict did it create? etc...

Provide a summary of the work. “Paint a picture” of the work for someone who is not familiar with it.

What is the major theme/genre addressed in the work? Religious, social, political, philosophical, literary, artistic? Impact on other genres?

How is the work a reflection of the historical figure associated with it?

How does this work serve as a model of the time period?

Significant quotes/paraphrasing	Source #	Pg #'s
1. Why?		
2. Why?		

D. WORK ANALYSIS

What was the purpose of the work?

How does the work define the spirit of the Renaissance?

What conflict did the work create in its time? Who might have been opposed to its ideologies? Think “revolution”.

How did these conflicts further reflect the spirit of the time?

Significant quotes/paraphrasing	Source #	Page #'s
1. Why?		
2. Why?		

E. EVALUATE THE LEGACY (1 paragraph)

III. 3rd Body Paragraph – Continue the analysis by discussing how your figure influenced the Renaissance and his/her legacy. Here is your opportunity to explain to your reader your figure's overall body of work/influence outside of the assigned formative work.

What is the value of the historical figure and their work to the Renaissance? What makes it great?

How does the figure and their work influence the world today?

Does the spirit you identified exist today?

What is the legacy of the Renaissance and its spirit?

STEP #7: FIRST DRAFT

Directions: Your first draft should be typed and formatted as if it were your final draft. The more work you put into your first draft, the easier your final paper will be to write. It should include the following features:

BEGINNING OF PAPER AND HEADER

Each page should have a right-justified header with your last name and page number. The first page should have the MLA header. Refer to MLA template at georgeacademics.com

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

Rule of thumb: Any piece of information that you found in more than one source is considered "common knowledge" and does not need to be cited. However, any piece of information that you found only in one source **MUST** be cited. There are two basic ways to parenthetically cite a source within the text of your essay:

1) Parenthetically cite both the author's last name and page number.

Merlin was the first wizard to successfully levitate (Dumbledore 17).

2) Introduce the author's name in your sentence, then parenthetically cite the page number on which you found that piece of information in that author's work:

As historian Albus Dumbledore writes, "Merlin was a wizard of unprecedented powers" (17).

Important Points:

- Whether you are paraphrasing in your own words (as in Example 1) or directly quoting (as in Example 2), you **MUST** parenthetically cite information. Otherwise you are stealing from another author and committing **PLAGIARISM**, which is a serious offense.
- The parenthetical citation is placed after the end of your sentence but **BEFORE** the punctuation.
- There is **NO** comma placed between the author's name and the page number.

STEP #8: FINAL DRAFT

	Unacceptable	Needs Improvement	Proficient	Exemplary
Read purposefully 20%	<p>Did not read the assignment sheet. Not acceptable.</p> <p>Content is unacceptable or weak due to inaccuracies and/or incompleteness.</p> <p>0</p>	<p>Format has several errors.</p> <p>Does not follow directions.</p> <p>Weak content within the assignment demonstrates inaccuracies, irrelevance. Content is weak through majority of assignment.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>Reads assignment sheet, follows directions and completes assignment according to directions in correct format with few errors.</p> <p>All content within the assignment demonstrates research is accurate and relevant.</p> <p>Content lacks some details.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>Reads assignment sheet, follows directions and completes assignment according to directions in correct format.</p> <p>All content within the assignment demonstrates research is accurate and relevant.</p> <p>Content is comprehensive.</p> <p>20</p>
Write effectively 40%	<p>Writing is disorganized. Grammar, spelling, punctuation or capitalization errors are unacceptable. Did not proofread.</p> <p>Outline is not done. Paragraph structure is unacceptable.</p> <p>0</p>	<p>Many spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization errors; Word selection, word choice and sentence structure needs improvement. Need to proofread final product. Needs extensive editing.</p> <p>Outline is incomplete. Paragraph structure has many incomplete sections.</p> <p>28</p>	<p>Few spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization errors; Could have been more carefully edited. Word selection, word choice and sentence structure could have been more varied.</p> <p>Outline is complete but with few errors.</p> <p>Paragraph structure has few incomplete sections.</p> <p>34</p>	<p>Excellent spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization; carefully edited. Excellent word selection. Varied word choice. Varied sentence structure.</p> <p>Outline is completed using a thesis, topic sentences, DIs, DDs. DBQ includes well written introduction, body and concluding paragraph structure.</p> <p>40</p>
Communicate effectively 40%	<p>Student did not communicate effectively in writing. Final products demonstrate an unacceptable ability to communicate effectively.</p> <p>0</p>	<p>Acceptable content based on examples from credible sources. Able to analyze documents and support thesis based on evidence for 1/3 body paragraphs.</p> <p>Communicates a clear message through 2-4 paragraphs.</p> <p>28</p>	<p>Meaningful content based on examples from credible sources. Able to analyze documents and support thesis based on evidence for 2/3 body paragraphs.</p> <p>Communicates a clear message through all 4-5 paragraphs.</p> <p>34</p>	<p>Very meaningful content based on examples from credible sources. Able to analyze documents and support thesis based on evidence for all three body paragraphs.</p> <p>Communicates a clear message through all five paragraphs.</p> <p>40</p>