


Comparative Essay Prompt and Instructions

Honors World I – Mrs. Petras

DUE DATE: Monday 4/30 (red) and Tuesday 5/1 (black)

- **Prompt: Compare and contrast the downfall of the Western Roman Empire to the downfall of _____ (your empire’s name) and evaluate which empire’s downfall had the most impact on their region or the world.**
- **Two Civilizations: (A) __Western Roman Empire__ and (B) _____**
- **Choose ONE of the following institutions for your compare and contrast:**
 - Political
 - Economic
 - Social (includes intellectual, environmental, cultural)

Comparison Graphic Organizer

A		B	
Institution	Differences	Similarities	Differences

1. Paragraph #1 INTRODUCTION

When comparing the downfall (Civ./Empire A) _____ with the downfall (Civ./Empire B) _____ during the _____ (historical time period) there were similarities and differences. (Institution) _____, they were similar and different because of (Sim) _____ and (Diff) _____. However, when evaluating both empires’ downfall, _____ had a more significant impact on the region****.

2. Paragraph #2 BODY

(institution) _____ the downfalls of (A) _____ and (B) _____ were similar and different.

- Their downfalls were similar because of (topic from chart) _____.
- **Your Evidence** (examples how their downfalls are similar – from the chart):
- **Explanation** (this similarity occurred because....)
- **Commentary/analysis** (how did this similarity cause the empires' downfall and explain how your example/explanation was more significant for the downfall of your choice empire****):

Body Paragraph #III:

- Their falls were different (institution) _____ because of (topic from the chart) _____
- **Your Evidence** (examples their falls were different – from the chart):
- **Explanation** (this difference occurred because....)
- **Commentary/analysis** (how did this difference cause the empires' downfall and explain how your example/explanation was more significant for the downfall of your choice empire****):

4. Paragraph #4 Conclusion

- Restate (in different words) your thesis (main assertion 1-2 sentences)

- Evaluate how both the similarity and the difference in their downfalls were more significant for choice empire (1 sentence); be sure to explain why (1-2 sentences).

Stay away from the following in an AP Style Essay:

No personal pronouns

No contractions

No abbreviations

No present tense (it is a historical essay)

No generalities (“stuff” “a lot”)

No “In conclusion....”

No “In my opinion...”

No “In this Essay....”

DO NOT TELL ME WHAT YOU ARE GOING

TO DO

JUST DO IT!