

A WESTERN CIVILIZATION REBOOT



Imagine that you could build a civilization from scratch. Where would you start? Upon what foundation would you build? What would be the core values or ideals of your civilization? And if you could select 3 notable individuals from the history of Western Civilization to act as your advisors, whom would you choose? For this research paper you will be providing answers to these questions through research, reasoning and writing.

Throughout the year in our study of Western Civilization we will have investigated many unique cultures and will have learned the stories of diverse and fascinating people and events. While much of this material might be foreign to us, it remains an important part of our own story and tradition, strange though it may be.

So let's imagine we have to start over and you've been put in charge of setting a new, bold course for humanity. Where do you start? What historical events, ideals, and people provide the inspiration for a new start? Here are some ideas to start you along...

FOUNDATIONAL VALUES AND HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS

Faith/Spirituality evidenced by the early Christians and monastic communities

Respect for natural world shown by native cultures

Democracy/Freedom/Liberty birthed by the Athenians and matured in Western Europe and America and explained in documents like the Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence

Strength of arms wielded by Spartans and Romans

Individualism as emphasized by the thinkers of Enlightenment

Cooperation/Brotherhood striven for by many, achieved by few

Creativity expressed by Renaissance artists, Enlightenment scientists, inventors, and poets

Competitiveness highlighted in the games at Olympus and in the trade of nations

Economic freedoms hard won by angry medieval peasants and humble teenagers of today

Education, books cracked in Medieval universities and the Holy Grail of the Enlightenment

ADVISORS (CHOOSE 3, LIMIT OF 2 FROM ANY TIME PERIOD)

Ancient to Medieval Pericles, Themistocles, Alexander the Great, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Cleopatra, Augustus Caesar, St. Augustine, Charlemagne, John Wycliffe, Thomas Aquinas, Roger Bacon, Joan of Arc

Renaissance to Pre-Victorian Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, William Shakespeare, Christopher Columbus, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Johann Gutenberg, Machiavelli, Thomas More, Desiderius Erasmus, John Calvin, Martin Luther, Nicolas Copernicus, Galileo Galilei, Isaac Newton, René Descartes, Blaise Pascal, Catherine the Great, Christiaan Huygens, Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Napoleon, Louis XIV, Maximilien Robespierre, Louis XVI, Eli Whitney, John Locke, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Malthus, J.S. Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven

Victorian to Modern Queen Victoria, Adam Smith, Florence Nightingale, Charles Darwin, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Karl Marx, Clara Barton, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Woodrow Wilson, Helen Keller, Jane Addams, Susan B. Anthony, V.I. Lenin, Sigmund Freud, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Nikola Tesla, Jeannette Rankin, John Maynard Keynes, W.E.B. Dubois, J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Winston Churchill, Eleanor Roosevelt, Thurgood Marshall, Marie Curie, Bertrand Russell, Frank Lloyd Wright, John D. Rockefeller, Wilbur and Orville Wright, Nelson Mandela, Ronald Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher, George Bush, Barack Obama, Gloria Steinem, Mother Teresa, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Eva Peron, Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein, Billy Graham, Oprah Winfrey, Bob Dylan, Louis Armstrong, Elvis Presley, Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Stephen Hawking, Pablo Picasso, George Orwell, Paul Hewson (Bono), Mark Zuckerberg, George Lucas, J.K. Rowling, Martha Stewart, Russell Simmons, Walt Disney

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The Paper

- MLA Cover Page
 - three inches from the top, centered: **paper title**
 - five inches from the top, centered: **student name**
 - one inch from the bottom, centered: **class name, teacher name, date**
- Introduction
 - **1 paragraph** in length (5-7 sentences)
 - Thesis argues why your values and advisors are the best choices for a successful and stable civilization.
 - Structure and Preview sets up the organization of the paper.
- Body
 - **4 pages in length**
 - Discussion of Foundational Values and Biography of “advisors”:
 - Describe the importance of the Foundational Value to a successful civilization, and then discuss how the person you choose is uniquely qualified to act as an advisor in this area.
 - Describe the person’s life. What contributions did he/she make to the understanding or development of Western Civilization? Describe the worldview of your person. What examples from your research led you to this conclusion? Did your figure’s worldview undergo any major changes during his/her life?
- Conclusion
 - **Up to 1 page in length**
 - Summarize how the Foundational Values that you chose would work together to create and maintain a successful civilization.
- Works Cited Page
 - complete list of sources used to write paper
 - at least **five sources** required (three internet, two print)
 - use MLA style citations and organize alphabetically by authors last name
- Format
 - one inch margins /12 pt, Times New Roman font /Double-spaced

EVALUATION

Critical Thinking	Communication	Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accurate and insightful discussion of Foundational Values and their significance• Thoughtful comparisons of historical events, ideas, people• Accurately describes cause/effect or continuity and change• Selection of strong research material	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conforms to MLA style• Paper is organized• Free of grammatical/mechanical error	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accurate and meaningful discussion of “Advisor’s” life• Clear and accurate discussion of relevant historical precedents• Inclusion of Political, Economic, and Social aspects of civ.

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In-Text Citations

In-text citations will be required for any information used that has not come directly from your brain or common sense. Citations are required for both direct quotes and paraphrases. Here is an example of a direct quote, in-text citation:

Human beings have been described as "symbol-using animals" (Burke 3).

If this source were used in a paraphrase, all you would need to do is provide the author and page number at the end of the borrowed information. Here is an example using the same information:

Burke's theory that human beings use symbols to communicate is further proven by the example of protesters. Often, protesters will use symbols like visual images or effigies to communicate their ideas. A simple illustration of this point is the peace sign, used during anti-Vietnam war demonstrations. Also, revolutionary American colonists protested the British crown by staging mock executions of a King George dummy (Burke 3).

The Writing Process

- Students will choose and communicate Foundational Values and advisors to teacher
- Students will learn the research process and acquire note cards
- Students will have for teacher review a works cited page and outline
- Students will identify a working thesis
- Students will complete research using note card system
- Students will have for teacher and peer review a rough draft
- Students will have for teacher and peer review an edited and revised copy of the rough draft
- Students will have for teacher review a final paper and works cited

Note Card System:

To maximize your paper's organization and clarity, it will be required that each student utilize a note card system. It is a very simple process. There are two types of note cards: subject cards and information cards.

Subject Cards:

- create one of these for each source that you use in your paper
- write the MLA citation on the blank side of the note card
- keep all information cards with their respective subject cards

Information Cards:

- in the **upper, left hand corner**, write the author's last name, source title, and page #
- create one of these for each piece of information you get from a source
- only one idea per card
- if text is a direct quote from the source, remember to use quotation mark

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Example: Subject Card

Mandela, Nelson. The Struggle is My Life.
Johannesburg: Popular Prakashan,
1990.

Example: Information Card

Mandela, The Struggle is My Life, 59

Nelson Mandela was arrested in June of 1952. He and others were abused by their European captors.

Click this icon on the Western Civ Home Page to get detailed information about proper citations

