



WRITING ASSIGNMENT

DUE DATE: Wednesday, September 21

The students are assigned a **single paragraph** length narration of the cardinal anchor facts of European history.

This is a highly specialized and specific assignment, and a number of parameters are set in order to allow students to focus on the essential content.

First, the topic sentence is *given*.

“Europe is the way that it is today because of its history.”

Students should use this sentence as the first sentence of their paragraph, unless they feel strongly that they are in full command of the theme and would rather stylize the introduction in their own words.

Second, the paragraph **must** contain the following events — AND ONLY THESE EVENTS:

1. Fall of the Roman Empire (476 AD)
2. Failed Frankish Union (800-843 AD)
3. Reformation and Religious Wars (1517-1648)
4. French Revolution (1789-99)
5. World War I (1914-19)
6. World War II (1939-45)
7. European Union (1993)

(continued on next page...)

European history is, of course, full of other facts, and students do need to learn more facts than these to truly know the story, but this is where we must start to learn the BIG PICTURE properly.

Note, dates should be used with every fact. History involves dates—necessarily.

Finally, as an important guide to writing, the paragraph length should be limited to the following range: 12-16 sentences. ***Include a sentence count in your submission to demonstrate that you followed this point.***

By following this precise template, students can focus on telling the story in a succinct and compelling way.

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Once you've completed the narration, and *checked* that you've included all the seven facts (and no more), please perform a sentence count, to make sure you have completed the assignment. If you are satisfied that the narration meets all the requirements...

Send your submissions to: mrpowell@historyatourhouse.com.