PROJECT III: Research Paper – A Position or Thesis-Based Essay

This option involves an eight-paragraph thesis based paper. It will choose and support the following thesis:

* “Based on the study of the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Greece, and Rome, it is clear that societal decline is inevitable. As a result of the patterns that led to these declines, namely X, Y, and Z, it is only a matter of time before modern Canadian society falls into history as well.”

The formal breakdown of the essay is as follows:

Paragraph I: Begin with introductory sentences of each of ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Then, offer the “reasons for decline – also known as X, Y, and Z. Then, offer an introductory statement of modern Canada. Finally, state that the decline of modern Canada is a clear inevitability.

Paragraph II: Explain how factor X plays a role in the decline of ancient Egypt.

Paragraph III: Explain how factor Y plays a role in the decline of ancient Egypt.

Paragraph IV: Explain how factor Z plays a role in the decline of ancient Egypt.

* Note that one of paragraph II, III, and IV must include a direct quotation, cited as an endnote in Chicago style.

Paragraph V: Explain how factor X plays a role in the decline of ancient Greece.

Paragraph VI: Explain how factor Y plays a role in the decline of ancient Greece.

Paragraph VII: Explain how factor Z plays a role in the decline of ancient Greece.

* Note that one of paragraph V, VI, and VII must include a direct quotation, cited as an endnote in Chicago style.

Paragraph VIII: Explain how factor X plays a role in the decline of ancient Rome.

Paragraph IX: Explain how factor Y plays a role in the decline of ancient Rome.

Paragraph X: Explain how factor Z plays a role in the decline of ancient Rome.

* Note that one of paragraph X, XI, and XII must include a direct quotation, cited as an endnote in Chicago style.

Paragraph XI: Offer a well-informed inference as to how factors X, Y, and Z will lead Canada into decline and “history” in the future.

Key Details:

One of your cited sources must be UCLA professor and author Jared Diamond. A link to some of his work is in the “Summative” folder on the website”. Another of your cited sources must be the National Geographic article “Is Every Civilization Destined to Collapse”, which is also on the website.

“Thesis Essays” Will Be Marked Based on the Following Criteria:

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|  | Level One | Level Two | Level Three | Level Four |
| Knowledge: The facts in the essay are both correct and relevant | The facts in the essay are not correct or relevant | The facts in the essay are somewhat correct and relevant | The facts in the essay are correct and relevant | The facts in the essay are very correct and relevant |
| Thinking: The concluding opinion is logical and insightful | The concluding opinion is not logical or insightful | The concluding opinion is somewhat logical and insightful | The concluding opinion is logical and insightful | The concluding opinion is very logical and insightful |
| Communication: The essay is both persuasive and formal | The essay is neither persuasive or formal | The essay is somewhat persuasive and formal | The essay is both persuasive and formal | The essay is very persuasive and extremely formal |
| Communication: The essay is mechanically correct | The essay is not at all mechanically correct | The essay is somewhat mechanically correct | The essay is mechanically correct | The essay is perfectly mechanically correct |
| Application: The essay uses Chicago formatting correctly | The essay does not use Chicago formatting correctly | The essay uses Chicago formatting somewhat correctly | The essay uses Chicago formatting correctly | The essay uses Chicago formatting perfectly |