

# i WORLD HISTORY i

## UNIT III: Times of Darkness

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### ESSAY on the MIDDLE AGES

All students will compose an essay on a topic of their choice. The essay should abide by the 5-paragraph format, including a simple thesis about the topic, supporting evidence, and a conclusion. Because a 5-paragraph essay is more than just a statement of fact, you will need to complicate the topic somewhat. In other words, you will need to develop some conflict, curiosity or controversy within the topic boundaries that will lead to an interesting thesis. Students will also need to conduct research and cite a minimum of two books and/or online sources of information. Students are encouraged to do as much research as possible before formulating their thesis.

In addition to the final written product, students will be asked to complete two surveys to demonstrate their writing and research processes, and provide evidence of their progress. A rough draft of the essay will also be required before. Below is a list of topics to choose from, with possible areas of focus in brackets. You are free to choose any of the topics listed, or select another topic, with approval of the teacher. Students will also be provided with a rubric that delineates grading criteria and states expectations in detail.

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- The Carolingian Empire and Charlemagne [politics and conquest]
  - The Byzantine Empire and Justinian [politics and leadership]
  - William the Conqueror [politics and conquest]
  - King Arthur [legend and heroism]
  - Joan of Arc [heroism and nationalism]
  - Empress Theodora [politics and leadership]
  - Hildegard of Bingen [religion and gender equality]
  - Thomas Aquinas [religion and intellectualism]
  - The First Crusade [religion and conquest]
  - The Reconquista [religion and conquest]
  - Morality plays [religion and the arts]
  - Gregorian chant [religion and the arts]
  - Sephardic Jews in Moorish Spain [religion and tolerance]
  - English common law [law and justice]
  - Trial by jury [law and justice]
  - Trial by ordeal [law and justice]
  - The Hundred Years War [nationalism and conquest]
  - The Estates General in France [politics and government]
  - Model Parliament in England [politics and government]