Neolithic Revolution Argumentative Research Essay
100 points (Formal/Summative Assessments)

Context:

Historians still do not all agree as to whether the Neolithic Revolution should be thought of as a positive or negative turning point in human history.

Prompt:

➢ To what extent should the Neolithic Revolution be thought of as a positive or negative turning point in human history?
  - Write an argumentative essay where you advocate for (argue in favor of) your position regarding whether the Neolithic Revolution should be thought of as a positive or negative turning point in human history; through citing and analyzing specific evidence presented by the authors of the academic journal articles and any of the course readings to support your position, while being sure to address the weaknesses of the counterclaim (addressing the weaknesses of the opposing side’s viewpoint).

Notes:

- However, you need to be sure to support your claim/thesis through providing specific evidence (from the academic journal articles and other course readings that were read and analyzed in class) and then analyze the evidence provided to fully explain how the evidence provided supports the claim/thesis (your answer/position to the essay prompt/question).
  - The two academic journal articles and other course readings read in class are your research for this essay (NO OUTSIDE RESEARCH IS PERMITTED FOR THIS ESSAY).
- You need to cite the source(s) you used in the essay both in-text and in a works cited page according to MLA format (i.e. the two academic journal articles and other course readings).

Note: You MUST follow MLA format for the essay and for in-text citations and the corresponding works cited page for the in-class essay.

- THE ESSAY NEEDS TO BE NEATLY HAND WRITTEN IN BLUE/BLACK INK OR TYPED AND CONFORM TO MLA FORMAT (PROPER HEADING, PAGE HEADERS, DOUBLE SPACED, PAGE NUMBERS, CITATIONS, ETC).
- YOU NEED to produce a works cited page for the essay as you are using information/evidence from sources (other individuals’ work) that I have provided for you (journal articles and other course readings) and there needs to be in-text citations for each source listed on the works cited page (and vice versa).
  - IF YOU FAIL TO HAVE EITHER OF THESE CITATIONS FOR EACH OF THE SOURCES YOU USE IT IS A FORM OF PLAGIARISM!
Assignment Requirements:

- Essay needs to be neatly handwritten or typed (in MLA format).
- Page Length Requirement: 750-1200 words (double spaced)
  - Typed: 3-5 pages
  - Handwritten: 9-15 pages (EACH SIDE OF A PIECE OF LOOSE-LEAF COUNTS AS ONE INDIVIDUAL PAGE)
- Must be written in 3rd person (no 1st person!)
- Use the academic journal articles and other course readings that were read and analyzed in class as evidence to support the premise/thesis (REMEMBER TO CITE THESE SOURCES APPROPRIATELY; MLA FORMAT [BOTH IN-TEXT & IN THE WORKS CITED PAGE]).
  - NO OUTSIDE RESEARCH IS PERMITTED FOR THIS ESSAY.

- Formatting Requirements:
  - Introduction:
    - You need to have an introduction with:
      - Background/contextual information (i.e. What was the Neolithic Revolution? When did it occur? Why is their disagreement about whether the Neolithic Revolution was a positive or negative turning point in human history?)
      - Thesis (The Neolithic Revolution should be considered a _________________ turning point in human history because _________________…)
  - Initial Body Paragraph(s); First Argument
    - Present your first argument for why the Neolithic Revolution was more beneficial/harmful overall for humanity and should thus be thought of as a positive/negative turning point in human history.
      - Using evidence cited from your research (the two academic journal articles and other course readings read in class) to support your argument.
        - I.E.- Specific evidence showing positive/negative outcome(s) of the Neolithic Revolution (for humanity).
    - Explain how the evidence presented supports the premise/thesis (that the Neolithic Revolution should be thought of as either a positive or negative turning point in human history).
      - Explaining how the evidence presented supports the premise/thesis is the analysis.
        - Analysis = Explanation to the reader of how the evidence supports the premise/thesis.
          - Explaining how the Neolithic Revolution was responsible for the positive/negative outcome(s) presented; this is done through making inference(s) based on the evidence and then explaining how the inference(s) connect to/support the thesis (prove the
If the Neolithic Revolution can be argued to have resulted in positive outcomes for humanity, then it supports the thesis that the Neolithic Revolution was a positive turning point in human history; and if the Neolithic Revolution can be shown to have resulted in negative outcomes for humanity, then it supports the thesis that the Neolithic Revolution was a negative turning point in human history.

DON'T GO OFF TOPIC & DON'T FORGET TO CITE YOUR EVIDENCE BOTH IN-TEXT AND IN THE WORKS CITED PAGE (IN MLA FORMAT)!

Secondary Body Paragraph(s); Second Argument

- Present your second argument for why the Neolithic Revolution was more beneficial/harmful overall for humanity and should thus be thought of as a positive/negative turning point in human history.
  - Using evidence cited from your research (the two academic journal articles and other course readings read in class) to support your argument.
    - I.E.- Specific evidence showing positive/negative outcome(s) of the Neolithic Revolution (for humanity).
  - Explain how the evidence presented supports the premise/thesis (that the Neolithic Revolution should be thought of as either a positive or negative turning point in human history).
    - Explaining how the evidence presented supports the premise/thesis is the analysis.
      - Analysis = Explanation to the reader of how the evidence supports the premise/thesis.
        - Explaining how the Neolithic Revolution was responsible for the positive/negative outcome(s) presented; this is done through making inference(s) based on the evidence and then explaining how the inference(s) connect to/support the thesis (prove the thesis).
          - I.E.- If the Neolithic Revolution can be argued to have resulted in positive outcomes for humanity, then it supports the thesis that the Neolithic Revolution was a positive turning point in human history; and if the Neolithic Revolution can be shown to have resulted in negative outcomes for humanity, then it supports the thesis that the Neolithic Revolution was a negative turning point in human history.
- DON’T GO OFF TOPIC & DON’T FORGET TO CITE YOUR EVIDENCE BOTH IN-TEXT AND IN THE WORKS CITED PAGE (IN MLA FORMAT)!
  - Tertiary Body Paragraph(s); Addressing the Counter Claim/Opposing Viewpoint
    - Need to address the opposing viewpoint (those arguing the opposite of your position).
      - What is/are the main argument(s) of the opposing side (what is/are the strongest argument(s) of the opposing side)?
        - What are the weaknesses in their argument(s)?
      - How are the arguments that you presented more persuasive (you need to explain this to the reader)?
        - Be sure to consider possible:
          - Weaknesses in their evidence
          - Faulty logic (consider the inferences the opposing side makes with the evidence and explain why it doesn’t make sense).
          - Possible assumptions made by the opposing side that does not appear to be supported by the evidence.
          - Etc.
    - REMEMBER: NO FIRST PERSON!
  - DON’T GO OFF TOPIC & DON’T FORGET TO CITE YOUR EVIDENCE BOTH IN-TEXT AND IN THE WORKS CITED PAGE (IN MLA FORMAT)!
  - Conclusion
    - Restate/summarize your thesis and corresponding explanation (showing how the examples/evidence & analysis works together to support/prove the premise/thesis).