Renaissance Character Notes

BEFORE YOU START TO TAKE YOUR NOTES

This information will be needed for the introduction of your report. Fill out the blanks in this section now. All this information will be used when you write the first paragraph of your report.

Character Name ___________________________________ Born ___________________ Died ___________________

What country were you from? _________________________________________________ (and if you lived in more than one you might want to list that too)

What were you famous for? ________________________________________ (This usually means what you did in life. For example, King of England or Chinese Explorer or German princess or Saint)

TAKING NOTES—You will need four sections on your paper to take notes.

SECTION ONE
In this section I want notes on the life of your character. If you find it, I also want information about the education or training of your character, other family members, and information about their friends or enemies. Notes must be in ___ bullet ___ style using short phrases of no more than ___ 3-4 ___ words (for example: had 14 children or signed Magna Carta or fought Second Crusade). Your notes must be in groupings or categories. Sentences or quotes directly from the source will get you a grade of a D on your notes.

SECTION TWO
In this section I want notes on how your character would have dressed. In order to do this, look at the countless illustrations in your book. You can make a pretty good guess what most kings, queens, knights, monks, explorers, etc. would wear. Do not forget about shoes, crowns, jewels, and colors. Take notes on what you see in the pictures. I also want you to make two or three drawings of costumes. Just use pencil if you wish. These do not have to be colored. The sketches should be about 3” high. Sketch the costumes in the same quadrant where you take your notes. Notes must be in ___ bullet ___ style using short phrases of no more than ___ 3-4 ___ words. Your notes must be in groupings or categories. Sentences or quotes directly from the source will get you a grade of a D on your notes.

SECTION THREE
In this section I want you to take notes about the timeline events. What went on in the world during the life of your character? Beginning date: __________ Ending date: __________. Use the Usborne Timelines of World History (you may even want to use your social studies textbook), which are both available in your classroom. Draw a timeline in this section and record information on it. You need information on six to ten events, but you can do more. INCLUDE DATES. Events must be in short phrases of no more than ___ 3-5 ___ words. Sentences or quotes directly from the source will get you a grade of a D on your notes.

SECTION FOUR
Record your Works Cited information here. Use easybib.com to help you cite your sources correctly. Write out the Works Cited information completely (including the URL for websites). This is not the time to use one, two or three-word phrases.
RENAISSANCE CHARACTER REPORT

WRITING THE REPORT FROM YOUR NOTES

Formatting reminders: Top/bottom margins are 1 inch; left margin is to be 1.25 and the right is to be .75 in order to accommodate binding. Use legible font of 12, and double-spacing between the lines. Put your name and core on the back of the report in pencil instead of typing it at the top of the report. Your report should have a title, which is the full name of your character. The title should be centered and in all caps. The entire report should be written in 1st person and past tense. The works cited will be on a separate page. Your name does not appear on the works cited page.

First Paragraph: This is your introduction. You have already filled out the blanks for this section. Write that information in sentence form. When you write this part of your report, use complete sentences. The report is written in "First-Person" which means that you are the character. You will use sentences with "I" and "me" when discussing the character. I will read you some samples to let you see how to start.

Second Paragraph and more: In these paragraphs, briefly tell me your character's life story. This information comes from SECTION ONE. I will look to see if you have paragraphing skills. Be extremely careful. Remember to indent when you are changing topics. If it helps, you might want to think of having to use at least three paragraphs here, one on early life, one on middle life, and one on later life.

Next Paragraph: Write a short paragraph about how you dressed. This information comes from the notes you took in SECTION TWO.

Next Paragraph: This is where I want you to tell me about what was going on in the world when your character was alive. You should use sentences that tie together well and even include some details, not just a running list of dates and events. The purpose is for you to understand the times in which your character lived. I would expect you to mention anywhere from six to ten events in this paragraph. Do not discuss more than ten. This information comes from SECTION THREE.

Next Paragraph: You must write this paragraph without any notes. It is purely "educational guessing" at this point. It must not, however, be ridiculous. You should be answering all three of the following questions: What do you think was the happiest event in your life? What do you think was the worst thing that happened to you? What do you think was your most lasting achievement?

Conclusion: Your last paragraph is also written without any notes. You are to make a judgment about your life. I want you to tell me how you think your life turned out. You should answer the following questions: What true regrets do you have, if any? What would you change? (Think about Konigsberg’s book, A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver. In one of the last chapters, Eleanor concludes that she would keep the bad times with the good and stay 67 for all her time left in heaven, for that is the full measure of her as a person. What do you think is your character’s philosophy?)

Works Cited: The works cited is always on a separate page. You will have at least four entries on your works cited. (1—book from a library, 2—timeline book in your classroom, 3—online source, 4—your choice). The title Works Cited should be centered on the page. The margin typing rules remain the same as your character report (left margin is to be 1.25 and the right is to be at .75 in order to accommodate binding). You should use easybib.com to create your works cited page (remember to click YES “display URL” for internet sources).

*** Be sure to follow ALL of the directions and SPELL CHECK YOUR WORK. A’S ARE NOT GIVEN TO PAPERS THAT ARE NOT SPELL CHECKED and/or following all of the directions.