

Writing Detailed Paragraphs  
Levels of Content  
Topic: Renaissance

**I. Painful, pungent garbage:** Reading this makes me cringe. Have you read a single page in your textbook or listened for twelve seconds while I've been jabbering these past few weeks? You could have written this paragraph back in July before even taking this course.

The Renaissance gave the world so much. We will forever be grateful for the contributions made during the Renaissance. Europe before was so much different but due to the changes made during this time period, the world looks a lot different today. They had amazing art that was totally different than before. Some famous painters made works that you can still see in museums today. Not only can you see them in museums, you can go to a park and walk by them also. In conclusion, the Renaissance was one of the most important things to happen to the history of Western Civilization.

**Total Historical Facts: 0**

**Grade: F**

Strengths:

- 1) Uses English as language of choice

Problems:

- 1) Find me a historical fact and I'll give you a dollar
- 2) Speaks in absolutes – “totally different” – avoid the following terms – everyone, never, always, etc.

**II. Good, acceptable, you're getting it:** I read this and I realized you learned something. You might have forgotten a few specifics or you dozed off while writing notes in class. However, I'm happy with this.

The Renaissance in Italy eventually spread over Europe. It started in Florence and it was a rebirth of Greek and Roman ideas. People started painting human beings that actually looked like humans. They were three-dimensional and you could see their muscles. The sculptures of David and other religious figures looked a lot like the sculptures of the gods during the Greek times. Leonardo da Vinci was a famous Renaissance artist and he made the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper. You can see emotions in the Mona Lisa and you can see perspective in The Last Supper. Overall, art during the Renaissance began looking again at styles from Greece and Rome.

**Total Historical Facts: 17**

**Grade: B-**

Strengths:

- 1) Numerous historical facts specific to era being discussed
  - a) Recognizes big ideas and supports with relevant examples

Weaknesses

- 1) Fairly boring to read
- 2) Details don't show clear understanding of nuances of era, examples
- 3) This is like a Cliff's Notes version of history
- 4) Author doesn't take a stand – very neutral

**III. You're a star, lovely, splendid:** I enjoyed reading this. You listen to me during class and you understand what you read. You put in details that make we want to actually read on. Well done. From now on, when I see your name at the top of a paper I will smile knowing that the next five to eight minutes of my life will be filled with joy and happiness.

During the **Church-dominated Middle Ages**, artistic expression took a huge step **backwards** and was finally saved with the **rebirth** of **Classical ideas** during the **Renaissance**. From the **fall of the Roman Empire** until the **fifteenth century**, Europe fell into a **Dark Era** where artistic freedom was **stifled** by the **overbearing** nature of the Church. Almost all works had a religious overtone and the figures included rarely looked realistic. Then Europe entered the Renaissance. **Financed** by **patrons** in **Florence** and the **religious hierarchy** in **Rome**, a new generation of artists began exploring the beauty of the **human form**. Motivated by the ideals of **humanism**, a **secular** movement initiated by **Petrarch** that rediscovered the civilizations of **Greece and Rome**, artists again began prioritizing the human form and implemented **perspective**. Though the works continued to have a **religious theme** (the patrons usually **demand**ed this), artists such as **Michelangelo**, **Rafael**, **Donatello**, and **Leonardo da Vinci** were free to explore their interpretation of the human story. From **Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel** ceiling where the **Bible stories** unfold using characters with **near-perfect bodies**, to **Raphael's School of Athens** where the greatest **thinkers** of all time mingle, Renaissance works showed a **refocus** on the glories of humans. With these two pieces and the hundreds of others that graced the **walls** of merchant's homes and the Church's **property**, Europe finally emerged from an era of mundane art and entered a period of **artistic freedom**.

**Total Historical Facts: 38**

**Grade: A**

Strengths:

- 1) Takes a stand that can be argued
- 2) Understands where events fall historically
- 3) A virtual bevy of historical facts
- 4) Uses appositives, parenthesis and complex sentences to include multiple facts

Weaknesses:

- 1) Wording awkward at times, but the author takes a risk...so I'm happy
- 2) Focus too broad at times, tries to cover too much, should have narrower focus