**In-class essay: MONDAY, February 4th**

Using the documents found in the DBQ and your knowledge of the effects of the printing press, answer the following question:

***To what extent was the printing press a turning point in Europe?***

Hey! This is like your research paper prompt. We’re writing this essay so that you can better understand how to write your research paper. Use this for practice. Your main goal should be to formulate your argument and support it with evidence.

* “To what extent” essay prompts are best answered by using the words “minor,” “moderate,” or “major”
* Clarify your response using at least two SPICE themes, which you should get from the documents
  + Maybe it wasn’t an economic turning point, but it definitely was a religious turning point. Or, maybe it was a major turning point for both religion and economics. Or, maybe it wasn’t a turning point in any regard.
* For you to accurately argue that it was or was not a turning point, you must talk about what life was like before the event. Then, talk about how the event changed or did not change that.
* Your essay should have a clear and concise argument. Your evidence should prove your argument (aka – your thesis statement). Tie all of your evidence back to the prompt. How does that piece of evidence show that the printing press was/was not a turning point?
* You should also use this in-class essay to work on citing documents. Just like in your research paper, I do not want you to quote documents. I want you to reference knowledge present in the documents in your essay. For example: *The printing press was a major educational turning point in Europe. Monks in Scriptoria no longer had to hand-copy books; the printing press could quickly print out hundreds of copies of books, which led to the ease of access of books (doc 1). This led to the rise of literacy across Europe.*

Seriously. Use this as practice for writing your research paper. When I edit this paper, you’ll be able to take those edits and use them on your research paper.

Essay outline:

* Historical context: three to four sentences of what’s happening at the end of the Postclassical Era or the beginning of the Early Modern Era. Start zoomed-out, then inch closer until you get to your thesis, which should be specific.
* Thesis statement: If you want, use the formula (Although X, Y, because A and B). If not, make sure it is analytical (tell me how/why).
  + Directly restate the prompt
* Evidence: at minimum two pieces of specific, correct evidence per paragraph
  + Always aim for three, just in case one of your points is incorrect
* Analysis: explain how/why the evidence furthers your answer to the prompt. Don’t just list off evidence. Use that evidence to **prove** your answer!
  + Sentence stems are so helpful! “Due to this…” “This makes the invention of the printing press a major turning point because…”
* Organization: Topic and concluding sentences will help keep you focused and on track.
* Extra credit: synthesis!
  + Instead of a conclusion, relate something that you’ve learned about in class to something you directly articulated in your essay. You can synthesize the political effects of the printing press to another invention that had major political effects. You can synthesize the rise of literacy with another time literacy rose in the world. Get creative!

You will be able to use the document packet in class when you write the paper. You can use the space below to plan out and organize your thoughts.

**“To what extent was the printing press a turning point in Europe?”**

As you analyze the documents, take notes below.

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| Document | Summarize in your own words | How can you connect to prompt? | Theme of document (SPICE or other) |
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