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### Academic ESL World History Unit 3. The Renaissance

Karin Lundberg

*CUNY Hostos Community College*

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## THE RENAISSANCE - THE HUMAN BEING AT THE CENTER OF THE WORLD

### I. Leonardo Da Vinci - Paragraph Writing

Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/61220876163131880/>

Read the quote carefully. How does the quote relate to the ideas of the Renaissance you have read about so far? Do you agree with Da Vinci's statement? Is it a positive or negative idea? Are there any drawbacks in your opinion? Write a fully developed paragraph in which you interpret the quote. Be specific. Justify your opinion by giving examples.

### II. THE RENAISSANCE, READING ASSIGNMENT: SUMMARIZING MAIN IDEAS.

Source: [https://human.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/History/World\\_History/Book%3A\\_Western\\_Civilization\\_-\\_A\\_Concise\\_History\\_II\\_\(Brooks\)/04%3A\\_The\\_Renaissance\\_-\\_Art\\_and\\_Learning](https://human.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/History/World_History/Book%3A_Western_Civilization_-_A_Concise_History_II_(Brooks)/04%3A_The_Renaissance_-_Art_and_Learning)

- a. Read the introduction and the different sections of the text. Scan each section for main ideas. Take notes on a piece of paper or in the margin if you have a printout. Clarify difficult vocabulary before you move on.
- b. Summarize three main ideas from the different sections. Use your own language and be sure to use quotations marks for concepts or expressions from the text. Add your own thoughts. Is this positive or negative? Is this an idea you recognize today?

Section	Main idea	My Comment



#### IV. THE RENAISSANCE: READING AND PARAPHRASING ASSIGNMENT

##### The Renaissance – Why it Changed the World

**Linked Source:** <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/art/london-culture/renaissance-changed-the-world/>

1. Explain the expression “The Black Death”: what does the text tell you about the plague?
2. Scan the text for the expressions listed below. Paraphrase the segments using your own words. Pay special attention to the words on bold.
  - a. Europe represents **the most profoundly important** period
  - b. **It coincided with** boom in exploration
  - c. Would bring not only a regime change, but also **cultural overhaul**
  - d. It had a kind of **snowball effect**
  - e. Italy **was flooded with** “lost” classics from the ancient world
  - f. Renaissance art **did not limit itself to** simply looking pretty
  - g. Copernicus and Galileo had developed **an unprecedented** understanding
  - h. **led to the rise of**
  - i. Erasmus **expounded** a new way of looking at the world that owed less to **blind subservience** to the Catholic Church and more to the possibilities **inherent in the human mind**.
  - j. The new ideas of free-thinkers, mathematicians and scientists all **became accessible** to the masses

- 3. Pick a minimum of three quotes that you find interesting. a) List the section and the paragraph number b) the quote c) explain why this is interesting to you.**

Section and Paragraph Nr.	Quote	My thinking

**V. DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS: REFLECTIVE SUMMARY**

Summarize what led to the spread of knowledge and ideas in the world at the time of the Renaissance. How are ideas spread today? What are some of the similarities and differences?

**VI. PARAGRAPH WRITING: CROSSING BOUNDARIES 1.**

During the Renaissance, urban life and society became the thriving ground for innovation and new ideas. One of the major shifts was to place the human being in the center of the world. Another was to observe and explore the physical world either through the arts, or by exploring the world through travels and discoveries. One essential aspect of progress is in fact the idea of pushing the limits and crossing boundaries. What does this expression mean to you? Have you ever had to cross boundaries to achieve a goal that was important to you? Write a full paragraph. Explain your thinking, add an example and finish with a reflection on this example. Was it positive or negative? What was the outcome? What did you learn?

Write at least 300 words.

## VII. LISTENING EXERCISE - FLORENCE: BRUNELLESCHI'S DOME

Source: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_IOPIGPQPuM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IOPIGPQPuM)

Watch the video. Take notes.

Summarize: Who was Brunelleschi? What is he famous for? What is spectacular about the Dome in Florence according to the video? What is the most interesting aspect of Brunelleschi and the dome in your opinion?

## VIII. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: "THE MERCHANT OF VENICE"

### Interpretation and Response Writing

ACT III, 2.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fj5gAo4iuwg>

1. Read the **quote**. (This is the original text. Compare to the simplified version if it is hard to understand.) Then follow the assignment instructions.

**Source:**

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/12578/12578-h/12578-h.htm>

**ACT III.2**

*“Salar.* But tell us, do you hear whether Antonio have had any loss at sea or no?

*Shy.* There I have another bad match: a bankrupt, a prodigal, who dare scarce show his head on the Rialto; a beggar, that used to come so smug upon the mart.—Let him look to his bond: he was wont to call me usurer;—let him look to his bond: he was wont to lend money for a Christian courtesy;—let him look to his bond.

*Sal.* Why, I am sure, if he forfeit, thou wilt not take his flesh? What's that good for?

*Shy.* To bait fish withal: if it will feed nothing else it will feed my revenge. He hath disgraced me, and hindered me half a million; laughed at my losses, mocked at my gains, scorned my nation, thwarted my bargains, cooled my friends, heated mine enemies: and what's his reason? I am a Jew. Hath not a Jew eyes? hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? if you tickle us, do we not laugh? if you poison us, do we not die? and if you wrong us, shall we not revenge? If we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that. If a Jew wrong a Christian, what is his humility? revenge: If a Christian wrong a Jew, what should his sufferance be by Christian example? why, revenge. The villainy you teach me I will execute: and it shall go hard but I will better the instruction”.

**1. Summarize in your own words what you think is Shylock’s main point. Write at least five sentences.**

**2. Write a response to Shylock: Do you agree or disagree with Shylock? Do you understand his feelings and anger? What do you advise him to do? Feel free to compare to your own experience, or a story you have heard in your family or country.**

**Your response should be at least 200 words.**

