World History

Unit 1: Ancient Civilizations

Historical Argumentation: Thesis/Claim Statements

*Mastering the ability to write a strong historical thesis depends upon your ability to recognize a strong thesis when you see one. In class on Friday, your groups went through a process of building a thesis in three steps – from basic (step/level 1), to proficient (step/level 2), to advanced (step/level 3).*

*Identify in which step/level each of the following student examples belongs:*

**Example 1**

“The root of all human inequalities is geography. This is because, most importantly, some regions had easy crops to grow and store, but also because some regions had native animals to domesticate, and crops and animals that provided nutritional benefits.”

Group guess ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Actual rating \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Example 2**

“The root of human civilizations’ unequal development is geography. Some areas thrived due to warmer temperatures, fertile land, and useable animals for domestication. Areas such as the Fertile Crescent are a perfect example where all these elements come into play.”

Group guess ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Actual rating \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Example 3**

“Certain geographic regions have advanced further over time because of development of human civilization, crops available to grow, as well as animals in the region that humans can domesticate.”

Group guess ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Actual rating \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Example 4**

“The Middle East thrived at the Agricultural Revolution because of their 13 out of 14 domestic animals, and surplus of food. Their climate was good to grow crops such as cereal grains, resulting in a more advanced country.”

Group guess ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Actual rating \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Example 5**

“Geographical luck is the cause of human inequality throughout the world due to the location of productive crops, animals to be domesticated, and the ability to preserve crops. This luck has caused inequalities among races and regions that still translates to the present day.”

Group guess ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Actual rating \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Example 6**

“Different human civilizations advanced faster than others because of their geography. Areas that had domesticated farm animals, crops that could be stored, and more advancements developed faster.”

Group guess ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Actual rating \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Example 7**

“Jared Diamond proved that human inequality was based off domesticated animals, geography, and development of crops.”

Group guess ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Actual rating \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Any of the above theses could be developed even further by adding more precise vocabulary, more significance, or more connections. Choose one of the statements above to edit and improve (but avoid simply making it longer). Challenge yourself with a stronger example to improve upon.*