Description

Compare and contrast the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire. What did each period contribute to western civilization and which had a more lasting influence? Project description: Over the course of the semester, you will be responsible for two short argumentative essays. There are five possible prompts related to the five units of this course: you will choose two. You will take the first essay through a series of three drafts. The second essay will undergo one revision. These essays give you more space to think through the important questions of the Western World and how the distant past relates to our world today. Learning outcomes: By completing these essays, you will gain experience in the techniques of the historical profession. You will demonstrate what you have learned in the current unit about the human past and the significant developments of the western world. You will learn to distinguish between primary and secondary sources and mobilize both in crafting an argument about the past. You will practice the conventions of modern English writing and the citation style of the historical profession. You will practice thinking empathetically about historical actors and themes, and you will practice discerning their significance for the world today. Expectations: ● 3-5 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, single-spaced header (3 lines max.), title, page numbers ● Instructor will post five possible essay prompts to the Blackboard Assignment page. They are also listed below. ● You can choose the two prompts that you want to answer, one from each half of the course. ● You must use at least 3 different primary sources from the Perry reader or from a scholarly external source relevant to the unit in question ● You must cite your use of secondary sources whenever appropriate: when it’s an obscure fact, an original idea, a paraphrase of a particular point, or a direct quotation. o You should try not to include any direct quotes longer than 4 lines. Convention dictates quotes that long to be formatted in single-spaced block quotes, but for an essay of this length, they’re ill-advised. Try paraphrasing the point or using a shorter quote. ● A thesis is a clear and concise statement about what you will be arguing. Try writing this: “This paper will argue \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Then, after you fill in the blank, you can usually cut out the “this paper will argue” part and it’ll still sound good. If in doubt, leave it in. At this stage, you can’t be too clear about what you mean. ● A similar trick can be used with your statement of significance in the conclusion. Try writing this: “This argument is important because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” And then cut out the first part, or leave it in for extra c