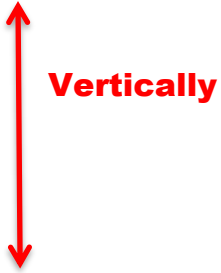


Example

Center cover page:



AND



Horizontally

*(be creative—such as—
Montezuma II: Doomed to Destruction)*

Your Title

Your Name



Mrs. Ingles

World History Period ____

Date it is due

Example

Creative title

Montezuma II: Doomed to Destruction

Thesis: Montezuma II had a detrimental effect on the Aztec Empire beginning with his cruel rule of the Aztecs. His interaction with the Spanish was also harmful beginning with the belief that Cortes was the god Quetzalcoatl, and then hosting Cortes as his guest for several months in the capital. In the end, Montezuma ended up unsuccessfully fighting the Spanish who were trying to conquer them, ultimately causing the Aztecs fall from power.

← Thesis statement—complete sentences!

I. Montezuma's cruel rule of Aztecs

1st point in thesis

A. Throughout his reign, Montezuma was in a constant state of war in order to expand their territory and have more prisoners of war to human sacrifice to the gods ("Moctezuma II").

← For each fact, cite the source

1. In 1502, two of the provinces, Nopallan and Icpatepec, rebelled against him. He used this as an opportunity to show his power by suppressing the people and also by collecting a massive amount of captives to be sacrificed to the gods. This earned him the reputation throughout the empire as a harsh ruler. Those who were not killed were forced to pay large sums in tribute ("Montezuma II." *World History*).

B. He expanded the empire to its height and created a more centralized government over independent city-states (Wagner 52).

2nd point in thesis

II. Aztec religious beliefs influencing them to assume that Cortez was a god

A. Hernando Cortes was appointed to lead the expedition for Spain to discover if the rumors about the Aztecs' supply of gold was true and to conquer the land (Johnson 44).

B. In 1510, the Aztecs began to hear rumors that strangers had been sighted

("Montezuma II" *World History*).

1. These rumors were that “men whose skin was white and whose ships were as large as palaces” were coming (Wagner 53).
2. Many Aztecs began to talk of gods that were returning to reclaim their land (Wagner 53).

Page # (if there is one)

C. Bad omens

1st word on works cited

1. Religious leaders were afraid because of bad signs such as falling stars were occurring. Priests told Montezuma that Quetzalcoatl would return in 1519, which is also the same year that Cortez landed on the Mexican coast ("Montezuma II" *World History*).
2. Other bad omens such as a partial eclipse of the sun and lightning striking a temple in the capital, Tenochtitlan, also occurred (Beck 458).

D. Montezuma’s religious affiliation that affects his view of the Spanish

1. Before Montezuma was the emperor, he served as an Aztec priest. His religion remained to be important to him (Wagner 52).
2. He began to seek answers from priests frequently to discover the purpose of the strangers visit to their land. He was so desperate for answers that he even killed some of his priests and magicians that could not give an explanation (“The Conquest”).

E. The timing of Cortes’ arrival lined up with one of the predictions of when

Quetzalcoatl would return from the east to rule over them ("Montezuma II Meets").

1. “Bearded white men, as pictured in the ancient drawings of Quetzalcoatl, had

appeared. They arrived on the eastern shores, precisely where Quetzalcoatl had left Mexico centuries ago riding on a winged serpent” (Stein 55).

2. They arrived in the year One Reed which was when their legend had predicted the god would return, so Montezuma believed he was about to be face to face with a god (Stein 55).

3rd point in thesis

III. Hosted Cortes as his guest

This point would need more information; I just got it started as an example

A. On November 8, 1519, the Spanish entered Tenochtitlan where they were treated as the guests of honor (“Moctezuma II”).

B. Montezuma II said, “Oh, Lord of ours, be welcome: you have arrived in your land, among your people, and in your house Mexico... This is, indeed, what had been told us by the bygone Kings: that you would return to rule these lands, and that you would sit on your throne” (qtd. in “Moctezuma II”).

Primary Source Quote

How to cite primary source

C. The Aztecs gave Cortes and his 450 men lavish gifts and held great banquets in their honor, yet just six days later, Cortes takes the emperor captive (“Moctezuma II”).


1. Montezuma gave Cortes a vast amount of gold and silver while Cortes offered him only a string of Venetian glass beads (“Montezuma II Meets”).

D. Montezuma “treated Cortés and his men hospitably. They were allowed to wander around the city and were even provided the materials to build a makeshift church to the Virgin Mary in the Temple Precinct” (“Montezuma II Meets”).

1. As Cortes’ men wandered around the palace, they discovered a sealed room full of treasure (“Montezuma II Meets”).

- E. Cortes and his men took Montezuma captive and were able to control the city and get tribute from surrounding areas ("Montezuma II Meets").
 - 1. The reason the emperor was imprisoned was to investigate the murder of two Spaniards on the coast ("Moctezuma II").
 - 2. It appeared that Cortes was attempting to control the Aztec through the captured emperor. They gave Montezuma "every luxury expect freedom ("Moctezuma II").
 - 3. In December, Cortes made Montezuma make a formal submission to King Charles V of Spain ("Moctezuma II").
 - 4. He forced Montezuma to summon all of his nobles together and ordered them to obey the Spaniards and to collect tribute for the Spanish crown ("Montezuma II").

4th point in thesis



IV. Battling the Spanish which ultimately led to their downfall

I did NOT START this point—it would need to be filled in if this was your outline



V. Analytical Conclusion

Analysis—this is IMPORTANT!



- A. Opposing argument: Some historians note that there were some positive elements to Montezuma's rule of the Aztecs and the conquering of the Aztec Empire by the Spanish.
 - 1. The Spanish introduced the Aztecs to domestic animals, sugar, grains, and European farming practices (Wagner 100).
 - a. Before the Spanish arrived, the only domesticated animals in the Americas were llama, alpaca, guinea pig, duck and turkey. The Spanish brought with them cattle, sheep, pigs, and goats (Newson).
 - b. Horses were also introduced which allowed for a faster means of transportation (Newson).

2. Once the Spanish were in control, they ended the Aztec's practice of human sacrifice ("Moctezuma II").
- B. Why thesis stronger than opposing argument
1. Montezuma's rule was more harmful to the Aztecs than beneficial because during his rule the Spanish conquered them. After the conquest, Cortes gave the land to his own men (Wagner 100).
 2. The Aztec culture and religion were lost to Spanish culture and Catholicism. The Aztecs became impoverished, while the Spanish lived luxurious lives (Wagner 105).
 3. The Aztecs were enslaved by the Spanish were many worked in the fields or mines in service to the Spanish crown ("Montezuma II Meets").
- C. Why is it important that Montezuma II had a detrimental impact on the Aztecs?
1. If Montezuma had not allowed the Spanish to stay in his city, they would not have had an inside connection to the resources of the city and been able to capture Montezuma himself.
- D. How might understanding your topic/argument affect the future?
1. It changed the course of Mexican history. After the conquest, the Spanish controlled the land. The Aztecs were landless and enslaved to the Spanish, which led to social divisions still seen today (Stein 126-127).
 2. The Spanish brought their language, culture, and religion to Mexico changing their course forever. Today's Mexican culture is a blending of Spanish and Indian cultures. This is seen in their art, music, and literature (Stein 144).

Remember:
All sources on your Works
Cited MUST be used!

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**Hanging
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