**The Dark Ages Essay**

**Writing Prompt:** Was the time period between 400-1400 AD a “Dark Age” for Europe?  Was this a time of cultural decay and decline? After reading multiple texts about the Middle Ages, argue whether the time period 400-1400AD was “dark” or “not dark.”  Use multiple pieces of evidence from at least 3 of the texts to support you position and answer the questions.

Scoring Rubric

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Does not meet Standard (5) | Not Yet  (6) | Almost There (8) | Meets Standard (10) |
| Thesis statement Clearly takes a position |  |  |  |  |
| Cites the source correctly |  |  |  |  |
| Addresses the prompt without “I think/I believe” statements |  |  |  |  |
| Proves whether Barbarian Supremacy existed with evidence |  |  |  |  |
| Proves whether intellectual depression existed with evidence |  |  |  |  |
| Proves whether cultural and economic depression existed with evidence |  |  |  |  |

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