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Research Paper Analysis Pre-Writing

1. Analysis (Conclusion)
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Opposing argument *(one reason/argument against your thesis—example: one reason da Vinci was NOT the ultimate Renaissance man)*

* 1. Why your thesis and supporting arguments (points from thesis) are stronger than your opposing argument

Answer ONLY ONE of the following questions:

* 1. Why is your topic/argument important? (ex. Why is it important that da Vinci was the ultimate Renaissance man?)
  2. How might understanding your topic/argument affect the future? (ex. How might understanding that da Vinci was the ultimate Renaissance man affect the future/today?)

MY EXAMPLE Analysis—I know it is really long—yours will be shorter

1. Analysis (Conclusion)
   1. Opposing argument: Interaction with Spanish did help modernize the Aztecs
      1. They introduced the Aztecs to domestic animals, sugar, grains, and European farming practices (Wagner 100).
         1. 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 on their early journeys (Newson).
         2. 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”).
   2. Why thesis stronger than opposing argument
      1. Even though the Aztecs benefited from their interaction with the Spanish through gains such as domesticated animals and other goods, ultimately their contact led to the destruction of the Aztec Empire (Newson).
      2. After the conquest, “Cortez began to hand out shares of the land to some of his men,” which meant the people were no longer in control of it (Wagner 100).
      3. The Aztec culture and religion were lost to Spanish culture and Catholicism. The Aztecs “would suffer in abject poverty while the Spanish built lavish estates” (Wagner 105).
      4. The Aztecs were enslaved by the Spanish were many worked in the fields or mines in service to the Spanish crown ("Montezuma II Meets”).
      5. The transfer of disease between the Americas and the Europeans had a larger impact on the Native Americans. Diseases like smallpox, measles, plague, and influenza were detrimental to the Aztecs and other Americans since they had no immunity to these diseases due to their isolation (Newson).

Answer ONLY ONE of the following questions:

* 1. Why is it important that Montezuma II’s contact with the Spanish 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.
     2. Since the Aztecs outnumbered the Spanish so significantly, Montezuma could have done more to prevent the Spanish conquest.
     3. As a result, Catholicism replaced the Aztec religion. Cortes requested priests be sent to the natives (Stein 129).
        1. Immediately the priests began to baptize the Indians. Thousands converted in mass baptisms (Stein 130).
  2. 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. Cortes divided the land between his soldiers through a system called encomiendos. This system created an environment where the Aztecs were landless and enslaved to the Spanish (Stein 126-127).
     2. “The union between Spaniards and the native Mexicans created a new people of mixed ancestry and heritage” (Johnson 128).
     3. 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).