Renaissance Research Paper

Paper Instructions:
Your paper is due on the date assigned, NO EXCEPTIONS, and should reflect college-level composition (SPELLING AND GRAMMAR COUNT).

A late paper will result in the loss of half a letter grade for each week your paper is late.

Failure to submit ANY paper will result in a failing grade for the course.

If you get help from the writing/learning center 5 points will be added to the final grade of your paper.

This paper will have the following:

- Using a minimum of 2 Primary documents
- Use a minimum of 2 Secondary sources (Book, approved web site, scholarly article)
- 5-7 pages typed using New Times Roman 12pt font
- One inch margins all the way around and double spaced
- Citations should be done using the Chicago Style

The Renaissance was a period of time between 1400 and 1700 where “profound and enduring upheaval and transformations in culture, politics, art and society” in Europe took place.¹ The modern individual will become a predominant part of the period “as well as the social and cultural institutions that define so many people in the western world today.”²

The Italian word Rinascita (rebirth) was used in the 16th century regarding this period. Jules Michelet coined the French word Renaissance in the 19th century to “represent a progressive, democratic condition that celebrated the great virtues of reason, truth, art and beauty.”³

The Renaissance was a historical period that would define the modern age, separating it from the Middle Ages. This break created a modern understanding of humanity and its place in the world.⁴

² Brotton, 9.
³ Brotton, 9.
⁴ Brotton, 10.
Your assignment is to tell the story of the Renaissance through one of the transformations that took place.

- You are to discuss the evolution of the Renaissance: briefly discuss the many transformations and individuals that participated in the Renaissance.
- Your main focus should be on one transformation that contributed to the progress of the Western Civilization into the modern world.
- What were the main obstacles facing your topic on the road through the Renaissance?
- What were some of the main facilitators that allowed for the spreading and development of your topic?
- How did ordinary people come to understand these new, almost unbelievable ideas that were emerging during the Renaissance?
- How did your topic change everyday life, what new ideas had practical implications and applications?
- How did your topic affect the state, church, and everyday people?
- What did Western Civilization look like at the end of the 18th century, and how did your topic contribute to this look of Western Civilization by 1800?