

Essay #1-Examination of the Foundations of the Ancient Civilizations

Introduction:

Your titles, cultures and the elements you are examining

EXAMPLE

Do we really choose our own path in life, or are we destined from birth? Well, according to the *Sundiata* and the *Shahname*, Fate determines the outcome of our lives. These stories, from Mali and Persia, both have heroes that accept what fate has determined for their lives. From the past, till the present there are people who believe in the concept of fate and that it affects their lives.

Body:

- Discuss the element/foundation piece of your civilizations (define, examine it)
- How did this element guide the characters? (give an example from the story)
- How does it exist today?

Conclusion:

What insight did you gain from these stories? (what did you learn from these cultures)

EXAMPLE

Although *Sundiata* had the better fate, *Sohrab* behaved more heroically. *Sohrab's* stoic acceptance of his death and his determination to save his people were an inspiration. Being able to accept things we can't change, like Fate, but still being able to reach for a better solution is something we can all strive to accomplish with our lives.