Task 2.C.

**Writing a Letter of Apology**

Standard:

1. The student will be able to write a letter in the perspective of a historical figure using text evidence.
2. The student will be able to prove the influence Aurangzeb had on India through the use of real examples.

Task:

Emperors have a huge influence on whether a country is run efficiently or poorly. Point of view is extremely important in history, especially in the case of Emperor Aurangzeb of India. He may have thought he was a great leader, but the people disliked him for many reasons. If Aurangzeb knew back then what we know now about how he influenced the Indian Empire, he may have acted differently.

**Your task is to pretend you are Aurangzeb and write a 3 paragraph letter to the people of India, apologizing for your mistakes.**

Please have the following requirements in your letter.

1. A description of how you (Aurangzeb) ruled and influenced India (Be specific and use textbook for evidence.),
   1. Also include how the people felt, and an apology for your bad leadership. (This is creative writing, and **does not** need text evidence.)
2. 3 laws or actions that you (Aurangzeb) are responsible for during your rule. (Find examples and evidence in your textbook.)
3. Describe how your 3 ancestors ruled before you. Include their accomplishments and/or failures. (Find examples and evidence in your textbook.)

*Example:*

**Nero’s Letter of Apology**

Dear Citizens of Rome,

I’m sorry for my terrible leadership as your emperor. I made terrible choices that certainly declined the great Empire of Rome. There is no doubt in my mind, that patricians and plebeians alike, hate me for the devastation and destruction I have caused. As I look back I can only imagine the envy the poor, homeless people of Rome felt as they saw me building my great palace where the fire once burned their homes to the ground.

I will never be remembered as a good ruler, for I have committed so many crimes. I poisoned my step brother, and murdered both my wife and mother. In order to build my grand palace, I started a fire that reduced one third of the city to nothing more than ashes. If that weren’t evil enough, I blamed the fire on the Christians! Someone had to be blamed for such a tragedy, and those Christians were always causing trouble anyway. They would pray to their “one” God, and refuse to offer sacrifices to the real gods, the Roman gods! As I look back however, I now regret burning them alive, feeding them to the lions, and watching them get decimated in the gladiator arena (Colosseum wasn’t built yet).

My ancestors must be ashamed of me. Many of them were such great leaders. There was the great Caesar Augustus, who stopped the civil wars in Rome and brought about the Pax Romana. However, then came Caligula, who tried to make his horse senator! At least I’m not as crazy as him. Then came a good leader named Claudius. He cleaned up the empire by improving the economy and returning stolen artwork. I’m sorry Rome, for my disastrous time as emperor. I hope you can find it in your hearts to forgive me.

Sincerely,

Nero

Letter of Apology Rubric: Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **0-59** | **60-69** | **70-79** | **80-89** | **90-100** |
| **Description of how Aurangzeb ruled India** | A sentence(s) was written but didn’t describe how he ruled and didn’t show how the people felt. No text evidence. | A sentence was written, about how he ruled but was confusing or inaccurate. | A few sentences were written, about how he ruled but were confusing or inaccurate.  Or  Paragraph was written without how people felt or apology. | A few sentences were written, which were clear and descriptive about how he ruled. Gave at least one example of how the people felt and apologized. | Paragraph was written, which was very clear and descriptive about how he ruled. Gave at least one example of how the people felt and apologized. |
| **3 laws or actions Aurangzeb was responsible for.** | A sentence(s) was written but didn’t describe what he was responsible for.  Or  A paragraph was written which described 1 law or action but was unclear, confusing, and/or inaccurate. | A sentence was written which described 1 law or actions he was responsible for.  Or  A paragraph was written about the 2 laws or actions but was unclear, confusing, and/or inaccurate. | A few sentences were written which described 2 laws or actions he was responsible for.  Or  A paragraph was written about the laws or actions but was unclear, confusing, and/or inaccurate. | A few sentences were written which described 3 laws or actions he was responsible for. | Paragraph was written which clearly described at least 3 laws or actions he was responsible for in great detail. |
| **Describe how Aurangzeb’s ancestors ruled before him** | A sentences(s) was written but didn’t described the accomplishments and/or failures of the other Indian rulers.  Or  A paragraph was written about 1 other ruler but was unclear, confusing, or inaccurate. | A few sentences were written which described the accomplishments and/or failures of 1 of the other Indian rulers.  Or  A paragraph was written about 2 rulers but was unclear, confusing, or inaccurate. | A few sentences were written which described the accomplishments and/or failures of 2 of the other Indian rulers.  Or  A paragraph was written about the 3 rulers but was unclear, confusing, or inaccurate. | A few sentences were written which described the accomplishments and/or failures of Babur, Shah Jahan, and Akbar. | Paragraph was written which clearly described the accomplishments and/or failures of Babur, Shah Jahan, and Akbar. |
| **Final Draft Quality** | Letter is not done in final draft quality; written in pencil, pen, or typed with many apparent mistakes, and difficult to read. | Letter is not done in final draft quality; written in pencil, pen, or typed with many apparent mistakes, but moderately easy to read. | Letter is done in final draft quality; either written neatly in pen, or typed with some apparent mistakes, and moderately easy to read. | Letter is done in final draft quality; either written neatly in pen, or typed with few apparent mistakes, and easy to read. | Letter is done in final draft quality; either written neatly in pen, pencil, or typed with no apparent mistakes, and easy to read. |

**2% point Bonus for above and beyond creativity and effort.**

**Teacher Comments: 10% grade reduction if late. 5% grade reduction if this rubric is not turned in with assignment.**

Total Points**:                       /400**