

CONTINUITY AND CHANGE OVER TIME (CCOT) WRITING WORKSHOP

Analyze the continuities and changes
from the Roman Empire to the
Byzantine Empire.

POLITICAL TRADITIONS

- ▣ What Roman political traditions did the Byzantine Empire continue?
- ▣ How did the Byzantine political structure change from the old Roman traditions?

- ▣ Sentence Starter
 - “Even though the Byzantine Empire continued Roman political traditions through _____, the Byzantines _____.”

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

- ▣ How did the Byzantine Empire continue and change the social characteristics of the Roman Empire?

- ▣ Sentence Starter
 - “While _____ was still prevalent in the Byzantine Empire, like in the Roman Empire, some Byzantine _____.”

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

- ▣ What economic characteristics of the Roman Empire did the Byzantine Empire adopt?
- ▣ Did the Byzantines change their economy in any way?

- ▣ Sentence Starter
 - “Despite the persistence of _____ from the Classical Period Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire _____.”

CULTURAL PRACTICES

- ▣ What cultural continuities and changes can be seen between the Roman and Byzantine Empires?

- ▣ Sentence Starter
 - “ _____ was a major cultural continuity from Rome to Byzantium, but after the collapse of the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire began to _____.”

ANALYTICAL THINKING POINTS

- ▣ Was there a turning point? A historical moment when the changes began?
- ▣ What caused the changes to occur? Why did a shift happen?
- ▣ Which is more prevalent the continuities or the changes? Are the topics more alike or different?
- ▣ Why are the continuities and/or changes significant? So what?

WEIGHING THE CONTINUITIES AND CHANGES

*NOTE: Attempt to generalize trends and themes, rather than list direct, specific evidence

▣ CONTINUITIES

- Roman example followed
- Greco-Roman influence extended
- Roman legacy is maintained

▣ CHANGES

- Byzantine has more inter-regional political power
- Byzantine accumulates more wealth
- Byzantine establishes distinct culture

CLAIM (more change)

- ▣ While the example, influence, and legacy of the Roman Empire was transferred to and maintained by the Byzantines from the 6th century to the 15th century, the Byzantine Empire reshaped civilization in the Post-Classical Era by establishing more political power, greater economic wealth, and a distinct culture.
- ▣ In doing so the Byzantine Empire helped to cement Christianity, represented a link to Greco-Roman traditions, and emerged as a critical geographic juncture between the east and west.

CLAIM (more continuity)

- ▣ Despite amassing more political power, greater economic wealth, and establishing a distinct culture of its own, the Byzantine Empire largely continued the traditions, structures, and example set by the Roman Empire.
- ▣ While the Roman Empire technically fell in 476 CE, the empire's legacy lived on in the Byzantine Empire until its decline in 1453.