

PERIODIZATION

Step 1: Periods in Life

To start thinking about periodization, periodize your life into 4 distinct periods of time and explain why you are breaking your life into these 4 periods. Provide each period with a name.

Turning points are a point and time in history that mark a distinct change or separation between time periods. Were the 4 periods you chose marked by turning points?

Step 2: Periods in History

Periodization as a historical thinking skill involves the ability to describe, analyze, evaluate, and construct models that historians use to divide history into discrete periods. To accomplish this periodization, historians identify turning points, and they recognize that the choice of specific data accords a higher value to one narrative, region, or group than to another narrative, region, or group. How one defines historical periods depends on what one considers most significant in society – economic, social, religious, or cultural life – so historical thinking involves being aware of how the circumstances and contexts of a historian's work might shape his or her choices about periodization.

With your table partner, identify 5 dates prior to 1450 that represent important trends and contributions to European life.

Why does 1450 signify a good starting point for the AP European History course?

Periodization: Middle-Ages vs. Renaissance

Directions: Another skill of periodization requires the ability to analyze competing models of periodization of European history. With your table partner, use the chart below to organize evidence that does support and does not support the prompt below.

What makes the Renaissance a separate & distinct period from that of the Middle-Ages?

Time Period: Renaissance		
Characterization for the Time Period	Events/Processes	Explanation
Supporting		
Undermining		

Write a thesis statement to answer the prompt above.

Two Views of the Renaissance: Jacob Burckhardt vs. Peter Burke

Directions: Read the two views about the Renaissance and answer the questions below.

Jacob Burckhardt

1. What evidence does Burckhardt provide that claims that the Renaissance *is* a distinct period?

2. What evidence does Burckhardt provide that claims that the Renaissance *is not* a distinct period?

Peter Burke

1. What evidence does Burke provide that claims that the Renaissance *is* a distinct period?

2. What evidence does Burke provide that claims that the Renaissance *is not* a distinct period?

