Writing Teams

***What is collaboration?***

Collaboration is an effort increasingly encouraged in the field of education and in the business world. Collaboration might be defined as the act of “working together, especially in a joint intellectual effort.” (American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language 2009)

True collaboration involves team members coming together to share their individual skills and resources so that the group, and the individuals within that group, meet with the greatest outcome.

As this mindset as a backdrop, you will be assigned a team to develop a comparative essay. To facilitate communication and interaction, each group will establish a Google Doc that all group members will access as well as the teacher*. (Don’t forget to use the “share” function to meet this requirement.)*

***Task…***

1. Groups will begin by considering the question and brainstorming initial ideas. As necessary, teams can conduct additional research to formulate and clearer approach to the question.
2. Members should then create a thesis which meets the task and that aims toward the “expanded core” requirement.
3. Then, groups should establish a general organizational plan and divide specific writing tasks. For example, a group of three might allocate work in the following manner:

* Student #1 Introduction and Conclusion paragraphs
* Student # 2 Similarities paragraph
* Student# 3 Differences paragraph

Please be certain that EACH student marks their first and last name at the end of paragraph(s) for which they are responsible.

***Reflection and Collaboration…***

1. Once the initial essay is complete, please assign each student to “review” the work of another group member. This should take the form of utilizing the comment feature of Google Docs or, alternatively, writing comments in an alternative font color immediately at the end of the text in question.

Once again, please make certain that EACH student accounts for their comments by including their name with their remarks.

Be certain to review the appropriate rubric before beginning this task and when you reflect upon the group’s efforts. Comments might take the form of pointing out specific ways that the writing sample met criterion on the rubric. In addition, observations might give constructive critical feedback as to how the task might have been better met.

Remember that this exercise is meant as a learning tool to improve upon writing skills. Please be thoughtful in your comments to achieve this end!!!

***Question…***

Compare Russian serfdom with the practice of Slavery in the Americas in the period between 1450 and 1750.