

Timothy Ryan  
AP Euro  
Period C  
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## Historical Essay Analysis

**Title:** Albert Einstein

**Author:** Michael H. Hart

**Author's thesis:** Albert Einstein was one of the world's most fascinating and brilliant scientists, and his almost superhuman contributions have gone unmatched as some of the most important discoveries in the modern world.

**Author's evidence:**

- a) Formulated the gravitational and general theories of relativity
- b) Discovered photons, that energy and mass are equivalent, and that gravity bends space-time
- c) Discoveries led to creation of atomic bomb
- d) Laws were not derived from experiments, but from rationalism, and uniquely have yet to be proven false in any situation
- e) Not as crucial as Newton, but still unique as the sole creator of the field of relativity
- f) Was a distinguished individualist

**Author's conclusion of the topic's significance:**

Albert Einstein was not as crucial as Newton to science, but his work was unique among scientists both before and after him. His formulation of the theories of relativity was rationalistic as opposed to being based in experimentation. As a result, Einstein was one of the few men of our era capable of discovering these important theories.

**What questions you have about the reading:**

1. Would Einstein's theories have been discovered later in the century, had he not existed?
2. Without Einstein, how would most modern science be impacted today, if at all?

**To what extent does your knowledge of the period support or conflict the author's thesis?**

My knowledge of the period supports that Einstein has been our era's most important scientist, for his conception of the theories of relativity and for his many other unique traits in helping further the field of physics.

**Explain the gist of the article, the nature of the evidence, and the significance of the topic:**

Albert Einstein is the greatest scientist of the twentieth century, in addition to being one of the most brilliant men of all time. His formulation of the theories of relativity were conceived through reasoning and mathematics, rather than hypotheses and experimentation, but have come to be recognized as the most elegant and flawless descriptions of natural phenomena yet discovered. In addition to the conception of these theories, he also made numerous contributions to other fields of science, particularly physics. Not only was Einstein unique in his brilliance, he also was unique in his mannerisms and behavior, excelling in other interests and having a renown sense of humor. The author of the article identifies Einstein's unique place in history in his discovery of the theories of relativity, nothing that, while they were not as influential as Newton's discoveries, they could only have resulted from the brilliance of men like Einstein. These theories are the closest modern scientists have come to developing a Grand Unifying Theory of all natural phenomena in the universe.