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AP Euro
Period C
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Historical Essay Analysis

Title: Modern Myths and Realities about the Revolution

Author: Robert R. Palmer

Author's thesis: Despite the myths and beliefs which have arisen over the years, the Revolution had a stunning influence on world history whose legacy continues to this day.

Author's evidence:

- a) The Revolution had its failures, but largely managed to dismantle the Old Regime.
- b) The Revolution was a legitimate answer to the problems in France at that time.
- c) It was the result of the circumstances of French history.
- d) The revolutionary mentality persisted, and contributed to changes in the next century.
- e) The Revolution was not limited to France.
- f) The Revolution spurred the development of political vocabulary and thought.

Author's conclusion about the significance of the topic:

The French Revolution should not be discredited for its failures or as having been a non-essential part of European history, as its effects were long-reaching, indicative of a wider revolutionary trend, and largely successful in its goals.

List below questions you have about the reading.

1. Without the French Revolution, would modern French society have existed?
2. Was the revolutionary action in Europe in the 1790's related to the French Revolution?

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

My knowledge of the period supports that the French Revolution was indicative of a larger, revolutionary trend, and that the revolution was successful in eliminating the Old Regime and ushering in a new age of political thought and social freedom.

Write a paragraph in your own words explaining the gist of the article, the nature of the evidence, and the significance of the topic.

The French Revolution is subject to many myths and beliefs which have developed over the years, but it should not be discredited for its faults, its lack of distinction, or its broad aims. Rather, the Revolution was a legitimate answer to the problems plaguing France at the time, and was started out of a larger revolutionary mentality that had existed in France's legacy and would continue to persist to this day. This mentality was not limited to France either, having existed across Europe and in the Americas, but the Revolution was instrumental in providing a basis on which further European revolutions could model themselves and take place, developing the ideas of a democratic and free society and the total elimination of the Old Regime.