# **Background Essay Questions**

# 1. What is the meaning of the word "renaissance"? Describe the time period known as the Renaissance.

2. In general terms, how would you describe the Middle Ages?

3. Why did education start to increase during the 1300s?

4. Why was the printing press so important to the spread of the Renaissance and humanist thinking?

5. Define these terms:

Middle Ages

monasteries

illiteracy

serfs

humanism