**Writing Tasks for *Readings in Western Culture***

**Unit 2 Mythology**

**Directions**: Myths are stories that have survived from ancient civilizations. They express a culture’s worldview and they are quite different in the shaping of gods and goddesses. Write a composition entitled ***My Favorite Mythological Story*** in about 180 words. You may follow the outlines below:  
1) Describe the story briefly (either a Chinese myth or a Greek one).

2) Reveal the values, morals or the human nature reflected in it.

3) Analyze its cultural features.

**Unit 4** **Architecture and National Character**

**Directions**: Every culture can inspire a type of architecture that can range from historic landmarks to modern marvels. Write a composition entitled ***An Imposing Chinese Architecture***in about 180 words. You may follow the outlines below:

1) Describe a Chinese building or an architectural complex.

2) Explain its unique social and cultural implications.

3) Express your personal understanding of it in contrast to western architecture.

**Unit 6 Ritual and Etiquette**

**Directions**: Etiquette is valued in every society but it is also culturally bound. Write a compare-and-contrast composition entitled ***Western Table Manners V.S.*** ***Chinese Dining Etiquette*** in about 180 words. You may follow the outlines below:

1) Importance of dining etiquette.

2) Compare western table manners with Chinese dining etiquette briefly in terms of seating arrangement, tableware placement, tableware use or food culture, etc.

3) Summarize the differences and the shared values.

**Unit 9 The Rise and Fall of** **Greco-Roman Civilization**

**Directions**: Greco-Roman culture has a great influence on western civilization and the modern world. Write a composition entitled ***Contributions of the Greco-Roman Civilization to the Modern World*** in about 180 words. You may follow the outlines below:

1) List some contributions of the Greco-Roman civilization to the modern world briefly in the field of philosophy, science, literature, architecture or politics etc.

2) Introduce one of them that impresses you most in detail.

3) State the impacts it has on the world.

**Unit 11 The Industrial Revolution and the Advent of the Information Age**

**Directions**: Technological revolution fundamentally alters the way we live and work. Right now, we are experiencing the Fourth Industrial Revolution which is a fusion of advances in artificial intelligence (AI), 5G network, the Internet of Things (IoT), genetic engineering, and more. Write a composition entitled ***My Attitudes Towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution*** in about 180 words. You may follow the outlines below:

1) Introduce the Fourth Industrial Revolution generally.

2) Specify one or two innovations and illustrate the impacts on life.

3) Express your personal thoughts and feelings about the Revolution.