Please answer each question with a short analytical essay. A short essay is approximately 2 to 4 paragraphs. You must support your conclusions with information pulled from the documentary to properly answer each question. The essay must be typed on a word-processor, on white paper, font 11 pt Arial or similar, 1 inch margins, name/ date/reading/class as the top header.

Please type the question in single space and then the answer to the question. Please double-space your answers to the question. Please number your questions.

1. Briefly describe the origins of the Aztecs? How did they rise to preeminence in Mesoamerica? How would their reliance on human sacrifice make their new empire vulnerable?

2. The narrator speaks of Cortes as a “man of his age”. What does he mean? How does Cortes exemplify his age (historical time period)? Describe the characteristics of a typical conquistador. What makes Cortés special among conquistadors?

3. What happened in 1520 when Cortes left Tenochtitlan to face a Spanish force sent to capture him? Why did the Aztecs rise in revolt? Describe “la Noche Triste.”

4. The media historian Charles Hamirez Berg says “on this continent we tend to legitimize ourselves by looking to Europe, especially to Western Europe.” What does he mean?