Video Assignment
*The Conquistadors Volume 1*
Hernan Cortez

Please answer each question with a short analytical essay (2 to 4 paragraphs; a paragraph is about 5 sentences). To properly answer each question you must support your conclusions with information pulled from the video. The essay must be typed on a word-processor, on white paper, font 11 pt Ariel or similar, 1 inch margins, name/ date/video/class as the top header.

1. Hernan Cortez was a man of destiny who performed one of the greatest feats in history. He destroyed an entire empire and built a new one upon the ruins. Who was Hernan Cortez?

2. The Aztecs sent to meet Cortez (and his small army) appeared to expect him? Why?

3. Hernan Cortez burned his ships so his men would have “nothing to rely on but their own hands.” Who were the conquistadors? Based on the documentary what can you tell about the temperament of a normal conquistador?

4. Describe a few instances of Cortez “gambling” in his conquest of Mexico.

5. Montezuma had every right to be wary of Cortez. Why did Montezuma allow Cortez and his men into Tenochtitlan?

6. Was the fall of the Aztec Empire inevitable? Based on the documentary what some of the overriding factors that lead to Empires downfall?