**Names:** Type first and last names here.

BIG QUESTION: What factors were most responsible for decline of the Roman Empire between the 3rd and 5th Centuries CE?

* In your conclusion, take a secondary position on whether it is accurate to say that the Roman Empire “fell”.

**STEP 1 – READ/DISCOVER/GATHER EVIDENCE. (Link on** [**www.mrbayer.weebly.com**](http://www.mrbayer.weebly.com) **and in-class handout)**

**STEP 2 – IDENTIFY YOUR CORE ARGUMENT POINTS BASED ON YOUR READING.**

**STEP 3 – CRAFT A RESEARCH-BASED THESIS STATEMENT.**

A Thesis…

1. must have a valid position
2. must fully answer the question
3. must have organizational categories (color code these in GREEN, BLUE and PURPLE)

**THESIS:** Type thesis with GREEN, BLUE and PURPLE organizational categories here. Each organizational categories should characterize your basic argument.

**STEP 4 – DEVELOP YOUR ORGANIZATIONAL CATEGORIES (LINES OF ARGUMENT) IN AN OUTLINE**

* Use topic sentences that expand upon the organizational categories (lines of argument) in your thesis.
* Provide research-based support for each topic sentence.

**TOPIC SENTENCE 1**: Type your topic sentence here. It should express one line of argument. In this case, one big factor that you think was most responsible for the decline of the Roman Empire.

**EVIDENCE:**

**TOPIC SENTENCE 2**: Type your topic sentence here. It should express one line of argument. In this case, another big factor that you think was most responsible for the decline of the Roman Empire.

**EVIDENCE:**

**TOPIC SENTENCE 3**: Type your topic sentence here. It should express one line of argument. In this case, another big factor that you think was most responsible for the decline of the Roman Empire.

**EVIDENCE:**

**STEP 5 – WRITE A CONCLUSION IN PARAGRAPH FORM.**

**CONCLUSION:** Type your conclusion here. Restate (don’t repeat verbatim) your primary arguments here. Provide a position about whether it is fair to say that the Roman Empire “fell.” Why is it important that your reader adopt your position versus other arguments that might be made?