Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Thinking about counterfactuals with:***

**The Fall of Constantinople**

I have highlighted the places you need to write in GREEN

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**Brainstorm reasons that the Ottomans won the battle:**

*Think about: Decisions before the battle, the tactics they used, important events in the battle, etc.*

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| **“BIG IDEAS”**  -Strength in numbers (150,000 vs. 10,000)  -A talented engineer offered Constantinople the largest cannon ever built, but the city couldn’t afford it, so he sold it to the Ottomans  **OTTOMAN STRATEGY**  -Divided army into three groups, so that they could continuously fight (and not lose their most precious troops in the third wave)  -Used “scare tactics” to intimidate the defenders during the battle  **SPECIFIC EVENTS DURING THE BATTLE**  -The Greek commander on the walls was shot and ran away, telling everyone that the battle was already lost and creating a panic  -The cannon landed a lucky shot in a weak section of the wall and totally breached it  -When the defenders sent a fleet of fire ships to burn down the Ottoman ships, they were unsuccessful, and the Ottoman ships surrounded the city |

**Vocabulary**: **Counterfactual**

*www.collinsdictionary.com*

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| **Definition**: expressing what has not happened but could, would, or might under differing conditions  **Example**: “**If** the general had not been killed, **then** the army (would/could/might) not have fled the battle.” |

**Our Counterfactual Template**

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| **1) If…**  *(Tell me the counterfactual)*  **2) Then…**  *(What would the result of that been?)*  **3) But…**  *(Tell me what did happen)*  **4) Which gave the Ottomans an advantage because…**  *(How did this help them win the battle?)*  **5) This advantage meant that…**  *(One more step in your thought process about the effect this advantage had on the battle)*  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  **A basic way to write out the template**  “**If** \_\_\_\_\_ had been different, **then** the defenders might have won because \_\_\_\_\_.  **But** \_\_\_\_\_ really did happen, **which gave the Ottomans an advantage** **because** \_\_\_\_\_.  **This advantage meant that** \_\_\_\_\_.” |

**Completed Example (Subject: European Reinforcements)**

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| “**If** the European empires had sent soldiers to defend Constantinople, **then** the Ottoman army might not have been able to capture the walls.  **But** the other Christian nations did not send help, **which gave the Ottomans an advantage** **because** they had 150,000 soldiers but the defenders only had 10,000.  **This advantage meant that** the defenders could never take a break from fighting, and it was a serious problem when even one of them was killed. |

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**Your Practice**

**Subject #1: (write it here)**

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| **1) If**:  **2) Then**:  **3) But**:  **4) Which gave the Ottomans had an advantage because**:  **5) This advantage meant that**: |

**Subject #2:**

|  |
| --- |
| **1) If**:  **2) Then**:  **3) But**:  **4) Which gave the Ottomans had an advantage because**:  **5) This advantage meant that**: |

**One event/decision before the battle- Example**

“**If** the Christian European countries had sent more soldiers to defend Constantinople, **then** the Ottoman army might not have captured the walls.

**But** the other countries did not send more help, **so the Ottomans had an advantage** **because** they had 150,000 soldiers but the defenders only had 10,000.

**This meant that** the defenders could never take a break from fighting, and it was a blow when even one of them was killed.

**One event/decision during the battle- Example:**

“**If** the fire ships sent to attack the Ottoman fleet had destroyed the fleet, **then** the defenders could have focused on the land attack or brought in reinforcements from the sea.

**But** the Ottomans defeated the fire ships, **so the Ottomans had an advantage** **because** after that they were able to surround the city in the water use their fleet to attack the city from the water.

**This meant that** the defenders had to take soldiers away from the land attack to fight the fleet, and no reinforcements could get through.”

CP VERSION HERE

List the reasons that the Ottomans won the battle:

*This can be the tactics they used, important events in the battle, how their army was set up, etc.*

“**If** this had been different, **then** the defenders might have won the battle. **But** it did not happen that way, **so** the Ottomans had an advantage **because**…”

**One event/decision during the battle- Example:**

“**If** the fire ships sent to attack the Ottoman fleet had destroyed the fleet, **then** the defenders might have won. **But** the Ottomans defeated that attack, **so** the Ottomans had an advantage **because** after that they were able to use their fleet to attack the city from the water. **This meant that** the defenders had to take soldiers away from the land attack to fight the fleet.”

**One event/decision before the battle- Example**

“**If** the Christian European countries had sent more soldiers to defend Constantinople, **then** the city might not have fallen. **But** the other countries did not send more help, **so** the Ottomans had an advantage **because** they had 150,000 soldiers but the defenders only had 10,000. **This meant that** the defenders could never take a break from fighting, and it was very bad for the city when one of them was killed.