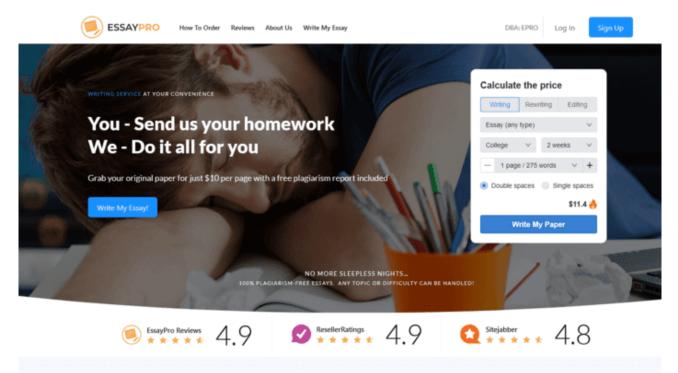
## **Renaissance Period and the Start of Humanism**



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The Renaissance Period and the Start of HumanismThe Renaissance was an incredibly important turning point in WesternIntellectual and Cultural Tradition. All of these changes centered aroundthe idea of Humanism -- in which, people became less "God Centered" andmore "Human-centered". I have narrowed down these changes, and willdiscuss in detail, these changes in three major categories: Political, Education, and the Humanism of Arts. The major pollical changes of the Renaissance were from the old FeudalSystem of the Middle Ages into a more flexible and liberal class system. This was most noticeable in Italy (particularly in Florence), where the divisions consisted of the old rich, the new rich nobles, the middle class, and the lower middle class(The poor didn't count). This created greatconflict between these social divisions. The new rich consisted ofsuccessful merchants, capitalists, and bankers innovators of new systems ofmaking money. The Humanism philosophy was also a very popular with thepeople and many political leaders rose to high positions with support of these ideals. Three humanists even became chancellors of Florence -- they used their rhetorical skills to strongly rally the people of Florenceagainst their enemies. The great changes in Education of the Renaissance were inspired atfirst, by the desire of Humanists to be wise and to speak eloquently. Theidea of useful education for the people, and very "well rounded" schoolingin many different fields of learning were the new defined goals of Renaissance education. People all over

(Especially in Florence) revived the Ancient Greek studies of Plato, Aristotle, and many others. Peoplebegan seriously questioning what these people said and re-developed the "Scientific Theory" in which you didn't just accept whatever was said toyou, but you tested the truth of it. In the area of Humanism and the Arts, Renaissance Artists no longerwere subordinate to the interests and the values of the Clergy, and wereable to create anything of their "artistic will". Both men and women werenow able to appreciated arts beyond just religious themes. Artists couldalso now take advantage of new techniques, such as oil painting and linearperspective to enhance the quality of their works. All of the greatartists of the time used became who they were solely because of this newartistic freedom that the Renaissance brought them. These artists alsocreated works that were more complex than before.

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