**Background for Reading *The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus***

**by Christopher Marlowe**

**Open a word document to accomplish the following:**

**Go to these two sites and READ, READ, READ:**

[**http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/16century/welcome.htm**](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/16century/welcome.htm)

[**http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/tudors/reformation\_overview\_01.shtml**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/tudors/reformation_overview_01.shtml)

[**http://www.cliffsnotes.com/test-prep/ap-tests/ap-test-prep-humanism-in-the-rennaissance**](http://www.cliffsnotes.com/test-prep/ap-tests/ap-test-prep-humanism-in-the-rennaissance)

1. From the sites above create a list of 10 **significant** facts or ideas from **each site** (yes, that means a total of 30). List things that help you understand the Renaissance, the Reformation, and Marlowe and how these ideas might help you better understand *Doctor Faustus* as we read it in class. On the Norton site make sure you read all of the articles, as well as the main introductory piece. The articles are listed in green on the side of the page. (NOTE: you **do not** have to read “Island Nations”)

1. Using at least 3 valid, separate sites, list 10 interesting facts about Christopher Marlowe. Also, copy and paste a picture of Marlowe. List the URL link below each fact. You may **not** cite Wikipedia as a source.

2. List 5 separate written works about Faust or the Faust Legend with a very brief (2-3 sentences) synopsis of each work.

(Faust Legends: http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/faust.html)

3. Explore the Faustian Legend through art: find at least five pictures of art that depict Faustus. Arrange them in chronological order and give some background on the artist.

4. Explore the Faustian Legend through music. Find at least three musical pieces that depict Faustian themes. Give the name of the piece, the artist, and the date. One piece must be from the 20th century.

5. What is meant by a Faustian Bargain?

6. Explore the Mythological characters Prometheus, Oedipus, and Icarus. Explain how each is an “over-reacher” who is punished for his ambition.

7. Drama: http://condor.depaul.edu/dsimpson/tlove/comic-tragic.html

1. What is the essence of a comedy?
2. What is the essence of a tragedy?
3. What are the three general requirements for Aristotelian tragedy?
4. What are the “three unities” as proposed by Aristotle?

8. List the elements of Elizabethan tragedy. How is Elizabethan tragedy both similar and different from classic Aristotelian tragedy?

9. What is a morality play?

10. Go to the following link and review Alchemy. Pay particular attention to Alchemy and the Renaissance. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alchemy>