Read this essay (or one of your own choosing) and respond to it using the specific response sheet.

**A History of Chess**

 Do you know how to play chess? If so, you are one of millions of people who have learned the game over the ages. The game of chess has been around for many centuries, and from all indications, it will continue to be around for many more.

 It seems that chess was originally invented in India sometime during the fifth century. During the next 100 years or so, it spread to Persia (a kingdom centered in modern-day Iran). Soon it spread to other Arab groups or kingdoms farther west, and from there, it was carried to Europe sometime around the tenth century. It became very popular during the Middle Ages.

 Chess has gone through some changes from time to time. For example, during medieval times the bishop and queen were much more restricted in their movement. Our modern rules for chess come from the seventeenth century. Given that they have not changed for nearly 400 years, it is unlikely that they will change in the future, either. It would seem that chess rules have reached a point of stability.

 Under the current rules, there are so many possible combinations of moves that there is no need for change. Of course, with close to 1,500 years of polishing, it isn’t surprising that the game is so good.

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