**Chapter 2—First Civilizations: Cities, States and Unequal Societies (3500 B.C.E.–500 B.C.E.)**

**Seeking the Main Point**

**What distinguished “civilizations” from earlier Paleolithic and Neolithic societies?**

***Download and save this document so you can return to it as you take notes and for studying.*** *As you read the chapter, fill in the chart below with the distinguishing characteristics of civilizations. If the distinguishing characteristics are not clear to you, you may want to return to Chapter 1 to review the characteristics of Paleolithic and Neolithic societies. If you copy and paste from the text, make sure to put quotation marks around the copied material; however, if you can think of a way to put it into your own words, you should do so.*

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| **Characteristic of Civilization** | **Function/Details** | **How It Differed from Earlier Paleolithic/ Neolithic Societies** |
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*After you have read the chapter, compose an essay that answers this question:*

**What critical developments distinguish civilizations from even the most advanced Paleolithic and Neolithic societies that preceded them?**

*Be sure to include an opening, introductory paragraph in which you state your thesis. Then use the body of your essay to provide evidence from the chapter to support that thesis. When organizing your essay, you might want to consider which developments were completely new to civilizations and which involved the continued evolution of developments present in Paleolithic or Neolithic societies. If any of your potential points lacks sufficient evidence, you might consider returning to Chapter 1 to strengthen your comparisons between civilizations and Paleolithic and Neolithic societies. End by writing a clear conclusion to your essay.*