

**The Fall of Rome****Focus on Writing****Narrative Poem**

Poets write narrative poems to tell stories. Write a short poem of 8 to 10 lines to tell the fascinating story of what happened to Rome as it became weak and lost its power.

**PREWRITING**

- 1. Adding Details** Make a list of the most important events that led to the fall of the Western Roman empire. You might like to make a chart like the one below and write one event per row. Two events have been provided to get you started.

Event
Emperors give up territory
Barbarians attack Rome's northern borders; Persian armies invade the east

- 2. Organizing Details** Add key events from Byzantine history to the list you made in the last section. Once you have completed your list, arrange the events in the order in which they happened.

**WRITING**

- 3. Writing a Narrative Poem** Follow these steps to write your narrative poem.

- Choose five or six of the events you listed to include in your poem.
- When you write your poem, remember that you do not have to use a regular meter or rhyme scheme. Instead, you can use **free verse**, poetry that has no regular meter or rhyme scheme but instead sounds like an ordinary conversation
- Use one of the following elements of poetry in your poem:
  - Alliteration:** Use words that begin with the same sounds, such as apple and aroma, or stack and staple.
  - Rhyme:** Use words that rhyme, such as home and Rome.
  - Refrain:** Use a refrain, a repeated sound, word, phrase, or line.
- In the first one or two lines, introduce your subject.
- Write five or six more lines, each about one event that occurred during Rome's decline.
- Write one or two lines about the importance of the fall of Rome.