

Assignment #3 Text Based Response essay with Research Component

Learning Objectives: Students will continue to hone their reading and analytical skills, while building on their practice of annotation, brainstorming and outlining. They will read more sophisticated material (NYT, WAPO, WSJ etc) and, starting with a library research/citation workshop, learn to use the internet and other sources to research topics both closely and tangentially related to their essay topic. They will also begin to evaluate the reliability of sources. Students will consider higher level ideas, use more sophisticated vocabulary and will employ more critical thinking skills as they develop connections between the arguments in their text, their own arguments, and the arguments they find in their research.

Procedure:

- 1) Warm up- Students will spend several weeks reading responses, opinion pieces and argumentative essays containing citation. They will learn to identify how the authors structure their arguments, include text-based evidence from other material and develop conclusions based on the synthesis of the material.
- 2) Each student will be assigned an Op-Ed article from The Times related to a topic that interests them.

Instructions:

- 1) Please read, annotate and outline your article, identifying the author’s opinion about the topic and the supporting ideas the author includes.
- 2) Decide whether you agree with the author’s opinion.
- 3) We attend a library workshop on developing search terms for web-based research. Please create a list of at least 8 search terms that you can use to find information about your topic. Be sure to consider your search terms within the framework of your opinion about the topic. For example, if the opinion of your article is that global warming is not real because the earth has always warmed and cooled, and you agree with this concept, your search will need to include ideas such as “Why global warming is not true” and “ The earth has always warmed and cooled.”
- 4) Find at least four articles that support your opinion that you can use as evidence in your response essay. Make sure that each article speaks specifically to your topic and one of your supporting points.
- 5) Create an evidence chart that will help you to organize your essay as follows:

Supporting Point	Evidence	Synthesis
1) Global Warming is not true because the earth has always warmed and cooled.	2) According to the article “xxxxxx” , scientists have determined that for the past 2000 years, there have been periods of extreme cold followed by extreme heat. This occurred long before the industrial age.	3) Both articles indicate that Global Warming is not an accurate scientific idea as long before humans started to pollute the atmosphere in the modern era, the temperatures were frequently extreme.

- 6) Once you have gathered your evidence and matched it to the supporting points of your text, you are ready to start to write your essay.
- 7) Write your introduction, the road map to your essay, considering the summary of the text, the supporting points of the text and your own thesis (your take on the subject).
- 8) Remember that each body paragraph must start with a topic sentence that relates to one of the supporting points you listed in your outline and included in your thesis statement.
- 9) Use the evidence you developed in the chart to develop your support, including quotations from the articles you have researched.
- 10) Make sure you use strong sentential transitions and that your transitions from paragraph to paragraph follow logically. Remember that you can use transitions to count (The first, another, the next, the last).
- 11) Your conclusion should begin by synthesizing what you wrote in the essay. Your final sentence should leave the reader with a memorable statement. You can make a prediction, ask a question or even challenge the reader.
- 12) Make sure to edit and proofread your essay.
- 13) Now that you have completed your essay, you are ready to write the hook. Remember that your goal is to draw the reader into your essay and keep them reading until the very end. You may create a question or make a statement that will engage the reader and make him/her want to read more.
- 14) First drafts will be peer reviewed for structure, vocabulary, argument development and grammar.
- 15) Please create a "sources used" page that includes all of the sources you have quoted from.