***Persepolis* Argument Essay**

Now that we have finished reading *Persepolis*, we’re ready to write an essay. For this assignment, I am asking that you write an essay in which you develop and support an original argument using the best evidence from *Persepolis*, current affairs, history, and/or your experiences. I hope in structuring the final assignment in this way, you will gain freedom as a writer and see larger connections between the book and the world.

Your essay will contain **five paragraphs**: an introduction, two body paragraphs in which you defend your thesis using evidence and analysis, one body paragraph in which you introduce and address counterclaims to your argument (this is different than last time), and a conclusion. Listed below is a very broad outline for your paper:

1. Introduction
2. Body Paragraph #1: Subtopic 1 using evidence and analysis
3. Body Paragraph #2: Subtopic 2 using evidence and analysis
4. Body Paragraph #3: Introduce and address key counterclaims
5. Conclusion

**What’s the prompt?**

For this essay, please address the following question: **Should graphic novels be taught at the high school level? Why?**

**Do I need a thematic thesis?** No. This is a specific prompt and you need to answer the question. You have the topic (graphic novels in high school) and you need to develop an opinion (they should or should not be taught)--and then create a reason as to why. Once you’ve done this, you should have the three parts of your thesis (topic + opinion + why/because/so what). Make sure your reason is an umbrella reason, meaning it’s general enough to allow for two subtopics. Of course the only way you can get to a thesis is to brainstorm first, so be sure to return to the writing that we did in class yesterday and begin to add to it.

**Can I use “I” in the essay?** I know that for the last essay, I told you that you should not use first person. However, for this essay, personal experience can be used as support. This means that you can use I in your paper, but you need to be consistent. If you plan to use I in your essay, you need to stick with it for the entire essay. If you prefer to write from a distance in third person, stick with that. Either will work, but you must be consistent.

**How many pieces of evidence do I need in each paragraph?** The key to a convincing argument essay is finding relevant and specific examples from a variety of sources. This is why brainstorming is so important. You need to find many examples in order to determine which are the most relevant and specific. Go well beyond the first one or two examples that come to mind in order to find the best evidence. There is not a magic number of examples to include in each body paragraph, because more is not always better. More importantly, you should be thoughtful in thinking about what will offer the most depth. If you have more than one example in a paragraph, make sure it is not just listing. Be sure that it adds something and serves a clear purpose and helps you to develop the subtopic. You also need to consider how completely you have developed each subtopic. Did you just give one quick example to check it off the list? That’s probably not the most thoughtful plan and you might need to add another example to give your subtopic more depth.

**Where can I get help on my essay?** You are required to visit the ARC during the writing process. When you go is up to you, but you must have the conference completed by the due date. You need to determine the focus of the conference. In other words, do you want help with brainstorming, crafting a thesis and/or topic sentences, selecting and integrating evidence, etc.? Make the conference work for you.

**Period 5**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 18 (LS100)HW: Freewrite paragraphs | 19 (78)Begin essay workAssign ARC conferenceContinue brainstormingWork on thesis & subtopicsHW: Thesis statement & subtopics | 20 (56)No class | 21 (34)Introductions Credible sourcesReview rubricWork timeHW: Finish first two subtopics | 22 (12)Work timeFinish finding sources/evidence for subtopics |
| 25 (LS100)Work timeCounterpointsHW: Finish counterpoint | 26 (100)Work timeReview citing & conclusions |  27No schoolRough draft review ARC conference due by end of dayHW: Finish essay | 28Happy Thanksgiving  | 29 No school |
| December 2 (LS100)Review conclusions & transitionsWork timeARC conference due by end of dayHW: Finish draft | 3 (78)Draft due (upload to Schoology by class time)Draft reviewHW: Finish revising essay  | 4 (56)No class | 5 (34)Essay due by class time (upload to Schoology)Final exam prep | 6 (12)Final exam prep |

**Period 8**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 18 (LS100)HW: Freewrite paragraphs | 19 (78)No class | 20 (56)Begin essay workAssign ARC conferenceContinue brainstormingWork on thesis & subtopicsHW: Thesis statement & subtopics | 21 (34)Introductions Credible sourcesReview rubricWork timeHW: Finish first two subtopics | 22 (12)Work timeFinish finding sources/evidence for subtopics |
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Freshman English Name:

ARC CONFERENCE SLIP (to be completed by student)

Please use this form to help guide your ARC conference. You will need submit this form to me by the end of the school day on December 2nd. Late submissions will not be accepted.

**BEFORE YOUR CONFERENCE**: What is your goal for your conference? What assistance do you need with your essay? Circle/highlight the area that you’re focusing on for your conference.

**Thesis Subtopics Evidence**

**AFTER YOUR CONFERENCE**: What is one change/addition that you are making to your essay as a result of the conference? Be specific in explaining what your next step is in crafting your essay.

ARC tutor printed name:

ARC tutor signature:

Date of ARC conference:

Period of conference: