Franklin Academy Boynton Beach

Grade 7 ELA Formal Writing Task

Unit 2: “Living in the Dark”

**Assignment**: Argumentative Writing – Performance Task (textbook **p. 210**)

**Outline Due Date:** Friday10/30/17 **Final Draft Due Date**: Monday 11/13/17

**Task**: Think about Santiago Herrera’s statement at the end of “Living in the Dark.” (p.210) **Do you agree or disagree with Herrera’s statement?** Use the following statement as your position statement: “Scientists should/should not continue exploring the oceans.” Identify three reasons/claims and use the article and any other research information you wish to support your reasons.

Y**our essay must be five parts and include a minimum of three quotes from cited sources.**

**Plan**: Review text for evidence

* Introduction – Your introduction should introduce the topic you are addressing (should scientists continue to explore our oceans), your opinion (yes/no), and the three reasons/claims you feel best support your stated opinion and which you will write about in your main body paragraphs.
* Main body paragraphs. Each main body paragraph should include a topic sentence that identifies the reason/claim, cited evidence from the text to support your reason/claim, and an explanation of how this evidence supports your opinion.
* Conclusion – Your conclusion should identify and dismiss a counter-argument (opposing point of view), explaining why you disagree with the opinion, restate your three main reasons and opinion, and a strong concluding statement explaining why others should agree with you.

**Research:** Gather evidence for your topic from the article “Living in the Dark” (textbook p. 201-208). Locate and present three researched pieces of evidence you will synthesize into your essay.

**Review**: Check your work.

**Purpose, Focus & Organization:**

* Does your introduction establish the focus topic?
* Do you give your opinion? Do you give three reasons why?
* Do you avoid using ‘I’ in your writing (using personal tone costs you a mark)?
* Do you use transition words at the start of paragraphs? Do you use them inside paragraphs?
* Do you use a topic sentence to identify the reason?

**Evidence and Elaboration:**

* Did you cite evidence and state the source? Did you use evidence from each source?
* Did you explain how the evidence supports your reason?
* Did you introduce a counter-argument and explain why they are wrong?
* Did you conclude with your opinion and the three reasons why you believe you are correct?

**Conventions:**

* Have you followed the conventions of the English language? Check spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and vocabulary choices to ensure your writing is accurate.

**Quiz Grade** = **Outline with Argument, 3 claims, and 2 pieces of evidence in support of each claim**

**Final Essay = Test Grade**