**Argument Essay – Passion and Reason**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period\_\_\_\_

**Rough Draft Due Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Final Draft Due Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Here is the prompt for the essay:**

**“If you can once engage people's pride, love, pity, ambition (or whatever is their prevailing passion) on your side, you need not fear what their reason can do against you.”**

**-Philip Stanhope, Lord Chesterfield (1694-1773)**

**Consider this quotation about prevailing passion and reason from Lord Chesterfield. Then write an essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies Lord Chesterfields’s assertion about the power of passion over reason. Support your argument with appropriate evidence from your reading, observation, or experience**

**STEP ONE**

**- Summarize the QUOTATION from the prompt IN YOUR OWN WORDS:**

**STEP TWO**

**-Do you agree or disagree with this claim? Will you defend, challenge or qualify (argue that this claim is only true in certain, limited instances) Chesterfields’s claim?**

**STEP THREE**

***- Qualify YOUR claim:***

**#1 DEFINE PASSION. Brainstorm a list of SPECIFIC examples of prevailing PASSION – Be more specific than the examples given in the prompt (pride, love, pity, ambition). You will need at least three SPECIFIC examples of passion for your essay. Your examples should come from your reading, your observation of others, or your personal experience. You will need three examples for your essay.**

**#2 DEFINE REASON. Be SPECIFIC.**

**#3 EXPLAIN how each of your examples of pervailing PASSION does or does not overcome REASON (as you have defined it).**

**Are there other ways in which you need to QUALIFY your CLAIM?**

**Argument Essay Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| INTRODUCTION | 3 Points | 2 Points | 1 Point | YOUR POINTS |
| Hook |  |  | Hook | /1 |
| CLAIM – Precise and arguable | Excellent Claim | Sufficient Claim | Weak Claim | /3 |
| Listing, parallel thesis (CLAIM+3 Reasons) |  |  | Listing, Parallel Thesis | /1 |
| QUALIFY – Your claim is sufficiently narrow |  |  | Narrow Claim | /1 |
| BODY Paragraph #1 |  |  |  |  |
| Topic sentence of body paragraph 1 ties to the first reason listed in thesis |  |  | Topic Sentence ties to fist reason | /1 |
| GROUND/DATA/EVIDENCE and explication to prove your claim | Excellent Grounds | Sufficient Grounds | Weak Grounds | /3 |
| WARRANTS are clear |  |  | Warrants are clear | /1 |
| Transition |  |  | Transition | /1 |
| BODY Paragraph #2 |  |  |  |  |
| Topic sentence of body paragraph 2 ties to the second reason listed in thesis |  |  | Topic sentence ties to second reason | /1 |
| GROUND/DATA/EVIDENCE and explication to prove your claim | Excellent Grounds | Sufficient Grounds | Weak Grounds | /3 |
| WARRANTS are clear |  |  | Warrants are clear | /1 |
| Transition |  |  | Transition | /1 |
| BODY Paragraph #3 |  |  |  |  |
| Topic sentence of body paragraph 3 ties to the third reason listed in thesis |  |  | Topic Sentence ties to third reason | /1 |
| GROUND/DATA/EVIDENCE and explication to prove your claim | Excellent Grounds | Sufficient Grounds | Weak Grounds | /3 |
| WARRANTS are clear |  |  | Warrants are clear | /1 |
| Transition |  |  | Transition | /1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Counterclaim (somewhere in the body of your essay) |  |  | Counterclaim | /1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Conclusion |  |  | Conclusion | /1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Argument SCORE | /26 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Conventions Score | 10 Points | 7 Points | 5 Points |
|  | 0-2 mistakes | 3-5 mistakes | 6+ mistakes |
|  |  | Total Conventions Score | /10 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Add Your Two Scores | Argument Score (\_\_\_/26) | Conventions Score (\_\_\_/10) | Your Total Score (\_\_\_/36) |
|  |  |  |  |