*Enrique’s Journey* – Unit Essay

**Description**

After reading Enrique’s Journey, viewing videos, discussing issues, and reading articles, use the evidence that you have gathered in order to write a persuasive OR argumentative essay based on the prompts provided at the end of this document. Keep in mind that depending on the type of essay you choose to write, you will either be PERSUADING someone to adopt your opinion, or ARGUING your point to someone that may not hold that same opinion.

A persuasive essay does not need to include counter arguments that negate the author’s original claim (thesis). However, an argumentative essay DOES need to include these counter arguments to demonstrate how the author’s original claim is better supported than others.

**Timeline**

Outline due on Wednesday, Nov. 9th.

First Draft is due in class on Monday, Nov. 14th. \* Peer Edits on Monday, Nov. 14th.

Second Draft is due in class on Wednesday the 16th.

Second Drafts are returned on Friday the 18th.

Final Essay is due by 11:59pm on Monday, Nov. 21st.

**Essay Criteria**

\*You must include references from the book and from at least two (2) outside sources.

Paragraph #1 Introduction

a) Hook: Pull the reader in WITHOUT asking a question, using an outside quote, or referencing a cliché statement. 1-2 sentences

b) Summary: Summarize the book we have read in class and the general idea of the prompt you are addressing in your paper. 2-3 sentences

c) Transition/Importance: Transition from your summary to why addressing the prompt you chose is important to the overall understanding of our book. 1-2 sentences

d) Thesis Statement: What are you arguing or what is your claim (persuading) and why is it valid. Be specific. 1-2 sentences

Paragraph #2/3/4 (Body Paragraph #1/2/3)

a) Topic Sentence: what is this paragraph going to be about? How does this paragraph relate to your thesis statement? 1-2 sentences

b) Summary: Provide your audience with a reference point in the book, or background information for the source/piece of evidence you are about to introduce. 1-2 sentences

c) Evidence: Quote or Paraphrase the book, an article, a documentary, etc. using parenthetical citations: (Nazario 23) in MLA format.

d) Commentary: What does this example say or mean in your own words—make sure this supports your original argument (you can reference an opposing claim as long as your analysis proves it to be invalid or not as good as an argument as your own). 1-2 sentences

e) Analysis: Why is this example important and imperative to backing up your claim? How is your claim supported by this example regardless of other views. 1-2 sentences

f) Summary: See point b.

g) Evidence: See point c.

h) Commentary: See point d.

i) Analysis: See point e.

j) Transition Sentence: Transition your thoughts and evidence from one example to the next in your second or third body paragraph. You should be creating a bridge between your evidence to create a stronger and more thorough argument. 1-2 sentences

Paragraph #5 Conclusion

a) Summary: Summarize your essay’s argument and the evidence you used to back up your claim. You can also provide a brief overview of opposing views as long as you sandwich them with why your claim proves to be better supported. \*Remember there are no wrong answers, only poorly supported ones.

b) Reiterate the Thesis: Restate your thesis statement to remind readers of your claim.

c) Commentary: What are we supposed to have learned from your persuasive or argumentative paper?

d) Analysis: How can we apply what we have learned to issues (social, communal, or worldwide) we face in our world today?

Works Cited Page

a) Please include all of your references (the book and at least two outside sources) in alphabetical order by the author’s last name.

b) Please cite your sources in MLA format. See Purdue Owl or the Helpful Resources tab on our class website for additional help.

**Essay Prompts**

1. Scientific American poses the questions: “When it really comes down to it—when the chips are down and the lights are off—are we naturally good? That is, are we predisposed to act cooperatively, to help others even when it costs us? Or are we, in our hearts, selfish creatures?” In a persuasive essay, write a response to the posed questions. You must refer to Sonia Nazario’s Enrique’s Journey and at least two other sources (as well as your own ideas) to support the points you make in your essay.

2. There are many journeys that occur throughout Enrique’s Journey. Is Enrique’s journey worth it? Is it worth it for Enrique's mother? For Enrique? For their relationship? For their future? For migrants in general? Write a persuasive essay about why the journey is worth it or not for both Enrique and the people in his life, as well as for migrants in general. Be sure to base your essay on both Nazario’s text, as well as two other sources.

3. Many people from Central America leave their homes because of the allure of the “American Dream.” However, as we see in Enrique’s Journey, that dream is often times not the reality that migrants face when they finally make it here. In a well-constructed essay, argue why or why not the American Dream fails people who come here in search of it. Be sure to acknowledge the other side of the argument in your essay. Provide two sources beyond Enrique’s Journey as well.

4. There is a constant theme of families being separated and reunited throughout the text. For many of the families in Enrique’s Journey, it is questionable if the separation is worth it in the long run. Compose a persuasive essay in which you explore this idea. Be sure to address the concerns and arguments of those who think differently than you do. Provide two sources beyond Enrique’s Journey as well.

5. Your choice: Construct an argumentative or persuasive essay in which you have a solid thesis and focus on topics/themes in Enrique’s Journey. Use two sources and the text in your essay.