Speaking, Then Writing

Transforming Your Debate into an Essay

Now that you have a great handle on your topic, you will transform it into an essay. You should not have to do any new research for your essay; you need to choose the most effective evidence to prove your opinion. The process is outlined below:

1. Based on your own opinion and understanding of the evidence you researched, select which side you want to prove for your essay. You will be using the outline from your debate as the outline for your paper, so make sure that you select the one about which you feel most confident.

2. Write your thesis. Use the resolution as the basis, but make it more specific to the evidence that you felt most strongly supported your claim.

3. Organize your essay, and select your evidence. I expect your essay to include both appeals to logic (facts, statistics and reasons), and appeals to emotion (narratives, value arguments, etc.). You must cite at least **4 sources** in your essay, using correct in-text citations. Your final essay needs to include at least 3 body paragraphs, and be a minimum of 1100 words (approximately 3.5 pages). The organizational structure is below:

**Affirmative Negative**

1. Introduction I. Introduction
2. Reasons to change the current situation II. Rebuttal of reasons to change

(1-2 body paragraphs) (1-2 body paragraphs)

III. Benefits of changing the current situation III. Reasons a plan to change won’t work

(1-2 body paragraphs) (1-2 body paragraphs)

IV. Conclusion IV. Conclusion

4. Write your essay, paying attention to embedding your quotes, using appropriate paraphrasing, and effectively explaining your evidence.

5. Revise your essay.

6. Write your final draft. Your final draft is due on **Tuesday, 12/18.** You must submit a copy to TurnItIn.com by 11:59pm on Tuesday. If you would like to receive written, evaluative feedback on your essay (the type that best helps you improve your writing), you also need to submit a hard copy at the beginning of the period on **Tuesday, 12/18.**

**Partner vs. Individual Work**

It is important that the work on the essay reflects your individual work, not that of your partner. The easiest way to insure that is to work beyond the debate outline, meaning include new evidence (from the rest of your note cards, not those cited in your outline), write a new hook, and/or provide more detailed analysis. The outline for the debate is just that – an outline. It will not sound like an essay with transitions, concluding sentences, etc. The essay needs to be more formal, more detailed, and more developed.