Concession/Assertion

We have been working on thesis structure for your *Ramayana* and *Odyssey* essays, as if it were a bigger topic sentence.

Let's review the thesis concepts we have already studied.

1. Thesis statements should, in general, be…
- Arguable:
- Dividable:
- Understandable:
- Provable:
- Short:

2. Thesis statements need to use language…
- That is not too general
- That is not too specific
- That finds the "sweet spot" of provable ideas

3. Here is the new aspect for this essay – the concession/assertion model of thesis construction.
- Concession/assertion thesis statements always take a side.
- Concession is the side you believe in less.
- Assertion is the side you believe in more.
- The first body paragraph will prove your concession
- Body paragraphs 2 and 3 will prove your assertion.

Some samples of Concession/Assertion thesis statements:

a) Although Odysseus is somewhat of a good leader because he sometimes shows great care for his men, he is more of a bad leader because he more often seeks his own survival over the care of the others in his crew.
b) Although Cai Yen is somewhat happy to return home, she is more upset at having to leave her children.
c) Although Rama and Sita sometimes test each other, for the most part each exhibits extreme loyalty to the other.
d) Although the doctor can be seen as a cruel person, he is much more of an empathetic character when one looks below the surface and realizes that he has created a story that condemns his actions.
e) Although Gilgamesh grieves intensely after Enkidu dies, Gilgamesh eventually learns to go on with his life.

Assignment:

Due: 3/26 10pm turnitin.com

Words: 1000 (10% either side is fine).

Worth: 100 points

Visit: Encouraged but not required (if you visit, please bring a comment from a past assignment to work on, your thesis and one body paragraph.)

Style: You should use "I" – as this essay is supposed to be personal

Questions: (choose one)

- To what extent is being a teenager in 2015 a positive experience?
- To what extent is attending Scarsdale High School a positive experience?
- To what extent did middle school prepare you for high school?
- To what extent is technology a positive part of your life?
- To what extent is Scarsdale a good place to live?
- To what extent is the ninth grade SHS English curriculum appropriate?
- To what extent is…(your choice – just get it approved – it will need to be personal)?

Structure:

Introduction:

- <u>Catchy and relevant opening</u> - that makes the reader of your essay want to read your essay and draws the reader's attention to the main ideas of your essay.
- <u>Term-spinning</u> – control the terms of the debate, so you can be more persuasive.
- <u>Thesis</u> – needs to be in concession/assertion mode.

Concession:

- TS – connected to the first idea – the one you believe in less – from your thesis.
- Example set up
- Example#1
- Example explanation
- Transition between examples
- Example set up
- Example #2
- Example Explanation
- Transition between sections (concession to assertion)

Assertion#1:

- TS – connected to the second idea – the less convincing assertion idea – from your thesis
- Example set up
- Example#3
- Example explanation
- Transition between examples
- Example set up
- Example #4
- Example Explanation
- Transition (between paragraphs – less convincing assertion to more convincing assertion)

Assertion#2:

- TS – connected to the third idea – the most convincing assertion idea – from your thesis
- Example set up
- Example#5
- Example explanation
- Transition between examples
- Example set up
- Example #6
- Example Explanation

Conclusion:

- Recap the major points
- Develop a connection with a work of literature we have studied this year or a topic from history.

You will be graded on the following:

How well does this essay stay within the word limit parameters? (5%)

How well developed is this essay's catchy and relevant opening? (5%)

How well developed is this essay's term-spinning? (5%)

How well written is this essays concession/assertion thesis? (10%)

How well developed is the concession paragraph? (20%)

How well developed is assertion paragraph one? (20%)

How well developed is assertion paragraph two? (20%)

How well developed is the conclusion? (5%)

How well edited is the whole essay? (10%)