



Plantation Life Essay



It is the early 1900s. You are living far from Hawaii. You have heard the sugar plantation owners are asking for people to travel to Hawaii to work on the sugar plantations. After hearing more about life on the sugar plantations you now need to make a choice. Will you move to Hawaii to work on the sugar plantations or will you stay in your home country?

In a **5 paragraph** essay explain what choice you made and convince others to also follow your choice. Give at least 3 reasons why others should follow the choice you made. Use the *Plantation Life* article from the *Honolulu Advertiser*, additional research and other material that we have been studying in class for your supporting information. ***Also, rate yourself on the rubric located on the back of this handout and turn this paper in along with your essay.***

Before you start your essay, complete the following. It will help you prepare for the essay.

Directions: If you think the sentence is a positive reason for coming to work in the plantations, put a “+” sign. If you think the sentence is a negative part of working in the plantations, put a “-“ sign.

1. _____ Life in the old country, like Japan was difficult because it was hard to earn money to get out of being poor.
2. _____ You had to live in crowded and dirty camps in Hawaii’s plantation towns.
3. _____ Life in the plantation towns was not fair because if you wanted to become a manager, you were only allowed to if you were white, Portuguese, or Hawaiian.
4. _____ Life in the plantation towns was not fair because some groups, like the Japanese, got paid better than other groups, like the Filipinos, even though they did the same type of work.
5. _____ You could escape your old life of being poor in China, Japan, or the Philippines and begin a new life by working in Hawaii’s sugar plantations.
6. _____ Working in the plantation fields was difficult and painful because you had to bend down all day and it was very hot.
7. _____ The plantation fields were very dusty, which made it difficult to breath.
8. _____ You could earn and save up money in the plantations.
9. _____ There were different activities you could do in the plantations for fun, such as fishing, playing cards, dancing, watch films and playing baseball.
10. _____ You had to wake up very early and work for about 10 to 12 hours in the field.

In the table below write down other positives and negatives of coming to Hawaii to work on the plantations.

Positives	Negatives



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(Rate yourself on this rubric and attach it to your essay)

	Exceeds (4)	Meets (3)	Approaching (2)	Beginning (1)
Attention Grabber	The introductory paragraph has a strong hook or attention grabber that is appropriate for the audience. This could be a strong statement, a relevant quotation, statistic, or question addressed to the reader.	The introductory paragraph has a hook or attention grabber, but it is weak, rambling or inappropriate for the audience.	The author has an interesting introductory paragraph but the connection to the topic is not clear.	The introductory paragraph is not interesting AND is not relevant to the topic.
Position Statement	The position statement provides a clear, strong statement of the author's position on the topic.	The position statement provides a clear statement of the author's position on the topic.	A position statement is present, but does not make the author's position clear.	There is no position statement.
Evidence and Examples	All of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	At least one of the pieces of evidence and examples is relevant and has an explanation that shows how that piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Evidence and examples are NOT relevant AND/OR are not explained.
Accuracy	All supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately.	Almost all supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately.	Most supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately.	Most supportive facts and statistics were inaccurately reported.
Closing Paragraph	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer's position. Effective restatement of the position statement begins the closing paragraph.	The conclusion is recognizable. The author's position is restated within the first two sentences of the closing paragraph.	The author's position is restated within the closing paragraph, but not near the beginning.	There is no conclusion - the paper just ends.
Grammar/Spelling	Author makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.	Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.