

ARGUMENTATIVE MODULE

Name: _____
Date: _____ Per. _____

ANALYTICAL ESSAY

Background Information:

"O Captain, My Captain!" is one of Walt Whitman's most famous poems. Whitman not only shows his own remorse for the loss of Lincoln, but also represents the somber feelings of many Americans during a time when the country should have been celebrating the Union Victory. By comparing Lincoln to the Captain of a ship, Whitman uses this among other extended metaphors to speak for the nation. Students are to determine if Whitman was justified in his comparisons.

YOUR TASK: Does Walt Whitman adequately portray the sense of loss felt by Americans after Abraham Lincoln's assassination? After reading "O Captain, My Captain!" and other informational texts, write an analytical essay that addresses the question, and support your position with evidence from the texts. Be sure to acknowledge competing views.

Materials:

"The Civil War Ends--A Small Town's Reaction, 1865." EyeWitness to History, 2011. Web. 6 Mar 2011. www.eyewitnesstohistory.com (2004).

"A Shot Rang Out." Teenbiz. N.p., 14 Apr 2005. Web. 6 Mar 2013. <http://portal.achieve3000.com/kb/lesson/?lid=647&step=11&c=1&asn=1>.

Freedman, Russell. "The Mysterious Mr. Lincoln." Literature. McDougal Littell. Evanston, IL: Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Print.

"Northerner's Reaction to Lincoln's Assassination." History Engine. University of Richmond, 2008. Web. 6 Mar 2011. <http://historyengine.richmond.edu/>

Whitman, Walt. "O Captain, My Captain!" Literature. McDougal Littell. Evanston, IL: Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Print.

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THINK ABOUT:

What do you need to know and know how to do to accomplish this task?

What materials will you need to accomplish this task?

Which text structure best fits this task?

What's My Plan to Accomplish This Task?

STEP 1	
STEP 2	
STEP 3	
STEP 4	
STEP 5	
STEP 6	

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ANALYTICAL ESSAY OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION: Who was Walt Whitman? What was the purpose of Whitman's poem? What were the feelings of Americans in the Union after the assassination? (Remember, Lincoln was the first president assassinated in America).

THESIS Example: Through extended metaphors, Walt Whitman accurately portrays the sense of loss felt by Americans after the assassination of President Lincoln in his poem, "O Captain! My Captain!"

BODY 1: Connect stanza one to research findings

BODY 2: Connect stanza one to research findings

BODY 3: Connect stanza one to research findings
Include competing view within Body 3 and rebuttal

(Optional) Body 4: Additional body paragraph

CONCLUSION: Restate thesis. Summarize the mixed emotions of Americans after April 14, 1865. Closing thoughts.

Use a Thinking Map to ORGANIZE your ideas:

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OUTLINE: INTRODUCTION

HOOK: (Sentence #1)

MAJOR TOPICS to be covered (Sentences #2-4)

- 2.

- 3.

- 4.

THESIS (Last sentence)

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OUTLINE: BODY PARAGRAPHS

BODY PARAGRAPH #1

Topic Sentence

Explanation of Stanza 1/Supporting Details

2.

3.

Research to support your idea:

4.

BODY PARAGRAPH #2

Topic Sentence

Explanation of Stanza 2/Supporting Details

2.

3.

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Research to support your idea:

4. _____

BODY PARAGRAPH #3

Topic Sentence

Explanation of Stanza 3/Supporting Details

2. _____

3. _____

Research to support your idea:

4. _____

OPTIONAL: BODY PARAGRAPH #4

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CONCLUSION

Restate Thesis: _____

Restate Three Major Points

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Closing Thoughts

WORKS CITED

"The Civil War Ends--A Small Town's Reaction, 1865." EyeWitness to History, 2011. Web. 6 Mar 2011. www.eyewitnesstohistory.com (2004).

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