

**OUR MAJOR WRITING ASSIGNMENT PROCESS – SCAFFOLDING FOR SUCCESS**

**Step 1**: we went over the major writing assignment outline and talked about purpose of the defense of position essay – diploma exam expectation - briefly discuss the skills involved and their real life application.

**Step 2**: ‘Sicko’ assignment and healthcare research to build debate contentions and counterarguments – potential evidence to used in your outline.

**Step 3**: 20 minute debates on the issue of health care – filmed on Flip cameras.

**Step 4:** we discuss the important components of the essay – an introduction (or introductory section) and an argumentative paragraph(s).

**Step 5:** we explore the scoring rubric together and read an exemplar and apply the scoring rubric – small and large group discussion of student assessments.

**Step 7**: time to prepare outline to support the writing process (three weeks to complete) – students could use their outline when they write their final copy.

**Step 8:** First attempt – grade reflects first attempt – essay growth plan will help to improve mark.

Examine the following source and respond to the question that follows.

***To make one's way in life one cannot rely***

***on a stranger’s willingness to share.***

**To what extent should we embrace the ideological perspective(s) reflected in the source?**

***Write an essay in which you must:***

• **analyze** the source and **demonstrate** an understanding of the ideological

perspective(s) reflected in the source

• **establish** and **argue** a position in response to the question presented

• **support** your position and arguments by using evidence from your knowledge and

understanding of social studies

**GENERAL ESSAY COMMENTS – ATTEMPT 1 – APRIL 19**

* Overall, there was a direct correlation between the amount of effort put into the outline and the performance on the essay.
* Students did a good job of addressing the source directly – using the phrase “The source…”
* Try to provide as much exploration of the source perspective as possible – including historical context. We spent time in class establishing historical context for the course. Individuals become empowered as a result of the *Enlightenment, French Revolution, American Revolution* and the economic freedom emerging from the *Industrial Revolution*. These events set the stage for modern issues surrounding the role of individuals and the role of government today.
* Do not use colloquial terminology. i.e. “states” in place of “United States” – major writing assignments are formal essays – treat them as such
* Avoid words like “all” “every” “everyone” “always” “never” – they are all-encompassing terms that serve to simplify your arguments. There are very few instances where the terms truly apply.
* If you use an acronym you must explain it the first time you use it – CEO (Chief Executive Officer)
* Do not assume the reader knows what you are talking about. If you introduce a concept or idea then you should fully explain it. If you talk about the privatized American healthcare system then explain that healthcare is controlled by private insurance companies. Individuals compete for good jobs that have healthcare plans, they buy insurance plans or they pay for healthcare out of their own pocket. Competition in the healthcare insurance market place drive shareholders and CEO’s drive to make decisions based on profit not people. It is not a universal system like in Canada where all citizens are covered regardless of their financial status. If you are using Canada’s system then you must clearly explain it as well. For example, you could talk about Tommy Douglas and our system’s history, the principles framed by the Canada Health Act (see notes and video), and the use of taxation (sharing) as a way of covering the cost of the system.
* Use as many social studies terms in your essay as possible (show-off your vocabulary and your understanding of curricular material). For example, if you talk about limited government involvement, introduce the industrial revolution era term ‘laissez faire’.
* Be clear with your use of the term *liberalism* (*modern liberalism versus classical liberalism*).
* Make sure you clearly link your arguments to your position and the source it is connected to. Your arguments and your evidence should be in the context of the issue and the source.
* Do not choose arguments you cannot clearly support with evidence. This is the fundamental difference between an opinion and a position. Your arguments must be supported by specific evidence (case studies, examples, statistics, expert testimony etc.). The outline provided you with an opportunity to gather and use specific details in support of your arguments.
* Healthcare is a good case study to explore the source and the issue question, but, remember, the major writing assignment was not specifically about healthcare. Transition from your introductory section to your arguments. Start with something like*: “Healthcare is an excellent case study with which to explore the competing values of individualism and collectivism that underlies the issue outlined in the source is in the modern liberal democracies.”*