**AP English III: ROOM FOR DEBATE – Research & Synthesis Activity Phillips: Fall 2017 (Modified from Anderson)**

**Task**: To practice developing a well-written, argumentative, research-style essay that synthesizes ideas from *The New York Times Room for Debate* website to support your opinion on a recent controversy.

* **Procedures (*DAY ONE* – BYOD activity or with laptops)**

1. Go to <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/06/19/does-the-confederate-flag-breed-racism>
2. ***Before* going online or reading any of the sources**, write a brief paragraph on the back of this sheet where you address the controversy surround the heritage vs. hate issue associated with the Confederate flag.

1. Next, **read the opinions** from the NYT site linked above. **Determine the claim** or thesis made in each one. **Make your notes** on the same page where you wrote a paragraph exploring the controversial questions. If you finish early, begin the preliminary process of choosing a research topic and/or reading from your assigned packet.

* **Procedures (*DAY TWO* – Composition)**

1. Now, plan your argument. You may create your own organizational plan, but follow the classic argumentative structure – You may omit the articulation of the solution, but you should think about it.

(**premise** 🡪 **thesis** 🡪 **your argument** (which synthesizes evidence from the NY Times articles) 🡪 present the **opposition’s view** (again, by synthesizing evidence from the NY Times articles 🡪 **conclusion/solution** (that potentially offers a compromise).

1. Synthesize ideas ***from all four*** sources for your argument. Cite the sources accurately by noting the author’s name in a **signal phrase** ***or*** placing the **author’s name parenthetically**. ***You do not need a works cited.***
2. **Draft your introductory paragraph** ***&*** **complete an outline** with evidence for your point of view and the opposition’s point of view. You don’t need to supply notes for the solution, but you should think about it.

**SCORING RUBRIC**

***This is a minor grade.***

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| *Scoring Category* | *Scoring Commentary* | | | |
| **AP Style Score - Intro Paragraph (Focus on clarity & concision)**  *50 points* | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Superb  **9** (50-48) | Excellent  **8** (47-45) | Very Good  **7** (44-43) | Good  **6** (42-40) | Adequate  **5** (39-37) | Developing  **4-3** (36-35) | Poor  **2-1** (34-30) | | | | |
| **Utilization of Sources in Outline**  *25 points* | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Superb  **6** (25-24) | Excellent  **5** (23-22) | Very Good  **4** (21) | Good  **3** (20) | Adequate  **2** (19-18) | Developing  **1** (17-16) | Poor  **0** (15) | | | | |
| **MLA Style in Outline**  *25 points* | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Superb  **Error Free**  (25-24) | Excellent  **1 Minor Error**  (23-22) | Very Good  **2 Minor Errors**  (21) | Good  **3 Minor Errors (Pattern)**  (20) | Adequate  **Frequent Minor + 1 Major**  (19-18) | Developing  **Frequent Minor & Major Errors**  (17-16) | Poor  **Frequent Minor & Major Errors - Distracting** (15) | | | | |
| **T0tal** | **Comments:** Students with less than adequate scores in one or more areas must attend a Smart Lunch remediation session before submitting their research essay. | | | |
| *Name: Date:* ***November 2017*** *Period:* | | | | |
| ***Steps 1&2.*** *When it comes to the Confederate flag, is the emblem a symbol of heritage or hate?*  **Write your *initial reaction* paragraph in the space provided.** | | | | |
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| **3. “A Trademark for Racism, Despite Its Point of View”** | | | **“A Matter of Pride and Heritage, Not Hatred”** | |
| Supports my view? | | Rebuts my view? | Supports my view? | Rebuts my view? |
| Quotes & Notes | | | Quotes & Notes | |
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| **“The Message is Clear for African Americans”** | | | **“A Symbol of Intimidation”** | |
| Supports my view? | | Rebuts my view? | Supports my view? | Rebuts my view? |
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**Composition – Steps 4-6 Introductory Paragraph & Outline with Evidence**

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| Name: | Date: **November 2017** | Period: |

**Intro Paragraph** – No need to skip lines – Focus on being concise & precise, especially with strong verb choice.

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**My Point of View** – Present pieces of evidence with proper MLA style with signal phrases (speaker & context) and parenthetical notes when you don’t mention the author’s name in the signal phrase. Use a combination of quotes and paraphrase – NO summary please. Use at least one but not more than four pieces of evidence to make your case.

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**Opposition’s Point of View** – Same directions as above.

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***Submit assignment upon completion and continue individual work with research topic or reading in your packet.***