Persuasive Commentary Script[1]

Podcasts are a way to reach a broad audience and make an argument succinctly. You will have the opportunity to practice your argumentative skills through a persuasive commentary incorporating a claim supported by evidence that is also deeply personal and reflective. The script will showcase your approach to a wider audience and may impact how teachers approach and teach about enslavement.

Instructions: Use the space below to write your script. Refer to the provided examples if you need help. Remember, your script should be 350 to 400 words.

Your script will be read aloud, so your audience will be listening. When you're citing your sources, you will want to name the source of information (like "The New York Times" or "The Associated Press"). You DON'T need to include the title of the article or the individual author's name (unless there's a very specific reason to do so).

Prompt

Main Question: How should we teach the history of enslavement?

Consider the following Supporting Questions:
-How does teaching and learning about African American history change if you begin with cultural ancestors in the African continent vs. the Middle Passage?
- How does the teaching and learning about slavery change if you focus on the institution of slavery vs. the fight of the enslaved for freedom?
-Why do we try to avoid the violent parts of our country's history? What is the best way to teach and acknowledge those violent parts?

[1] Adapted from KQED Learn - Youth Media Challenges Resources, accessed October 2022.

Script Graphic Organizer

Lede/Intro (hook) (5-7 sentences)
Think about how you want to catch your listener's attention. What's going to make someone stop what they are doing and listen?

[Type response here]

Scene (personal experience or memory)(10-15 sentences)
Tell a story, maybe of how you first learned about enslavement. Open your document "Learning about Enslavement" and share your story about one of the prompts.

[Type response here]

Argument (Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning) (10-15 sentences)

a. Start by choosing either the Main Question or one of the Supporting Questions above and copying and pasting it here.
b. How would you answer that question?
c. Evidence: What documents did we read that can help you explain or answer that question? For example, the readings: Olaudah Equiano, Language of

Enslavement, or the article we read, The Search for a Meaningful Clue. Or any of the many documents we read from Week 7 to Week 11.

d. Reasoning: What does this evidence show or prove? "This shows that…"

[Type response here]

Conclusion/Call to Action (7-9 sentences)
The Big Idea or takeaway: What do you want your listeners to be able to take away by listening to your podcast episode?

[Type response here]