

Child Labor in Cocoa Fields RAFT Writing Assignment

Planning Sheet

Name: _____

Core Class: _____

Remember your task: Some people have suggested that more should be done to expose the public to the unfair use child labor in the cocoa fields. You are in charge of the school blog, and your assignment is to write an informational blog post on this topic for the school website. Use the sources you have examined to write your article.

Role: School blog editor, Well-informed student

Audience: Not-informed students/teachers

Format: Blog post

Topic: Expose uniformed people about the unfair use of child labor in cocoa fields AND the importance of buying and consuming Fair Trade cocoa.

Introduction: Which facts and figures will guide your story? Tell your readers **where** and **when** this story is happening. What will give the reader a sense of the people involved and what they are thinking?

Hook: 1 – 3 sentences used to capture the reader’s interest in the essay. Use an “imagine statement” or heartbreaking statistic, brief story or quote.

Bridge: After capturing the reader’s attention, present the necessary background the reader needs to understand the topic. What is this article about? What is the issue? What should your reader expect to understand about this topic? (Why is Fair Trade a big deal?)

Thesis: The last sentence in your introduction paragraph that states your opinion/feelings about the topic and your reasons of support. It is a one sentence summary of your essay.

Main body (there is no set number of paragraphs, so you must decide how to break up your article into logical paragraphs) What is at the heart of your story?

Things that you should definitely include in your blog:

- Fair Trade (define it, how does it work?, why is it important to look for this in cocoa products?)
- Child labor (explain the conditions of children working on cocoa farms, why is this necessary?)
- Slave labor (how do they get away with this?!)

- Environmental impact of irresponsible cocoa farming
- Most importantly, what can your peers do to make sure the cocoa farmers have a better life?

Brainstorm your list of relevant text evidence that you want to include in your newspaper article here.

Remember, you need a minimum of **7 pieces of evidence from the videos, articles, class discussion/notes, or other websites you've used for research**. These can be summarized or quoted directly in your paper.

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where did this piece of evidence come from: _____
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How will you group these pieces of evidence along with your own ideas? You can use a graphic organizer or web to help you group your ideas and thoughts into paragraphs. Similar text evidence can be grouped into a paragraph together with your thoughts and reflections.

Conclusion

An end quote (from an article/video/other source) is a good way to sum things up. That doesn't always work. Find something that sums the article up in a few words.
Leave your reader thinking about Fair Trade chocolate, child labor and what they can do about it. The conclusion can be very short.
