**8th Grade**

**Literary Essay**

**Multiple Text Essay (NJSLS W.1, W.4, W.5, W.6)**

**Directions:** Compose a complete literary essay that evaluates the central theme of two or more texts using evidence and direct quotations from the literature, drawing on evidence from literature to support analysis and reflection using MLA format.

**Sample Planning:**

Introduction:

1. Introduce both article titles and a one sentence summary of what the article’s purposes were together. ( I.E- to inform, entertain, persuade, etc)
2. Provide a one line summary of each article that informs us what the main idea and/or perspective is from each article.
3. Write your thesis statement- what is your entire essay about? Which side are you on?

Body Paragraph #1:

1. Topic sentence- what is this paragraph going to be about? This will be your strongest point that supports your thesis AKA pro or con for labels in a strong statement.
2. Introduce and state your cite #1 from one of the articles.
3. Explain, expand, and elaborate on your cite #1… be sure to nail WHY or HOW your cite proves your thesis statement.
4. Introduce and state your cite #2 from one of the articles. ( use a transition that takes you from textual evidence 1 to textual evidence 2)
5. Explain, expand, and elaborate on your cite #2… be sure to nail WHY or HOW your cite proves your thesis statement.

Body Paragraph #2:

1. Topic sentence- what is this paragraph going to be about? This will be your second strongest point that supports your thesis AKA pro or con for labels in a strong statement.
2. Introduce and state your cite #3 from one of the articles. ( make sure you use BOTH articles if you haven't used both in the last paragraph)
3. Explain, expand, and elaborate on your cite #3… be sure to nail WHY or HOW your cite proves your thesis statement.
4. Introduce and state your cite #4 from one of the articles. ( use a transition that takes you from textual evidence 3 to textual evidence 4)
5. Explain, expand, and elaborate on your cite #4… be sure to nail WHY or HOW your cite proves your thesis statement.

Conclusion:

1. Restate your thesis statement in a different way than your original.
2. Review and restate both of your topic sentence’ main points- these should both reinforce your thesis statement’s side!
3. Include a concluding sentence or statement that nails what you want your reader to understand after reading your essay. What does all of your information assert?