**Opinion/Argument Writing about Texts**

Describe this as an opportunity for students to “show off” what they know about opinion writing, rather than create an “evaluator” feel. The time mentioned is not a time limit, per se, but more of a guideline; basically, this should be done during one writing workshop time, 45 – 60 minutes.

The Day Before Giving the Assessment: *Think of a text that you know and care about, a text around which you have strong feelings. Tomorrow, you will have forty-five minutes to write an opinion or argument text in which you will write your opinion or claim and tell reasons why you feel that way. When you do this, draw on everything you know about literary essays or essays in general. If you want to bring in the text you’ll write about, you may bring that with you tomorrow. Please keep in mind that you’ll have forty-five minutes to complete this, so you will need to plan, draft, revise, and edit in one sitting.*

The Day of the Assessment: *Think of a text that you know and care about, a text around which you have strong feelings. Today, you will have forty-five minutes to write an opinion or argument text in which you will write your opinion or claim and tell reasons why you feel that way. When you do this, draw on everything you know about literary essays or essays in general. If you want to bring in the text you’ll write about, you may bring that with you tomorrow. Please keep in mind that you’ll have forty-five minutes to complete this, so you will need to plan, draft, revise, and edit in one sitting.*

Read aloud the following, written on a large piece of chart paper:

In your writing, make sure you:

* Write an introduction.
* State your opinion or claim.
* Give reasons and evidence.
* Organize your writing.
* Acknowledge counterclaims.
* Use transition words.
* Write a conclusion.