**Informational Essay: Comparing and Contrasting Perspectives on an issue**

**8th Grade**

**Paragraph Breakdown**

**Intro. Paragraph-** 1) Begin by giving background information about your topic. Grab the reader’s attention by raising their curiosity. Make clear the topic you will be writing about. Consider all the information your reader needs before diving into an explanation of the two sides of the issue. Make sure you define the critical issue, provide historical background information, and define key terms. 2)Describe the contrasting perspectives. Explain the two stances on the issue and how they differ. 3) State the Thesis Statement which is the Central Idea. Outline the 2-3 key questions/topics surrounding the debate over this issue. Give the plan of what your body paragraphs will discuss.

**Body Paragraph-** You need to decide on a block format or a point by point format at in your packet on page 41. **Block format**= 1) Give a topic sentence about perspective #1/Topic A. 2)Next give supporting details about your perspective s stance on Topic A. 3) Give an analysis then transition sentence. 4)**The next paragraph** give your topic sentence about perspective 1/Topic B. 5)Supporting details about Perspective 1’s stance on topic B. 6)Give your analysis. **Point by point format**= 1) Give a topic sentence about Perspective 1/Topic A. 2) Next give supporting details about perspective 1’s stance on Topic A. 3) Give an analysis then transition sentence. 4)**The next paragraph** give a topic sentence about perspective #2? Topic A. 5) Next give supporting details about Perspective 2’s stance on Topic A. 6) Give an analysis then transition sentence.

**Concluding Paragraph-** 1) Remind the reader what you’ve discussed and give a brief summary. Summarize the two stances on the critical issue and/or the central idea. 2)Discuss what the future debate over this issue might involve based on what you have read and what you have determined from your research. 3) Explain why this issue is so important to a society or culture – how it has or could change things.

**Don’t Forget: Make sure you site your sources with a bibliography page!!**