7. Activist Influence Paper

Now that you've done all this research and have a solid idea of your activist's life (background, challenges, and accomplishments), we can get to the fun part: OPINIONS! What you're going to do is find out who is for your activist, who is against them, and then tell me your deeply researched, well-considered opinion. You're also going to use in-text citations, yay!

Step 1: Intro. Quick summary paragraph of your biography. Pretend nobody has ever read anything about your activist and they're hearing about him/her for the first time in this paper. Give us a quick idea of who the activist is and WHAT CAUSE THEY SUPPORT. Then end this paragraph by saying that not everyone agrees with your activist.

Example: John Lennon is perhaps one of the most beloved activists of his day. He gained fame as a member of the greatest band of all time, The Beatles, and later used his fame to draw attention to a number of causes he cared about. He was a passionate pacifist and dedicated numerous protests, songs, interviews, and events to promoting the cause of world peace. However, he had powerful enemies who sought to discredit him.

Your turn:										

Step 2: Enemies

Make a list of people or organizations that are opposed to your activist's cause, why they're opposed, and a quote that proves it, with source (try for at least 3).

Enemy	What's their problem?	Quote that proves it, with source
Turn this into your	second paragraph.	

Step 3: Supporters

Make a list of people or organizations that support your activist's cause, why they support it, and a quote that proves it, with source (try for at least 3).

Enemy	What's their problem?	Quote that proves it, with source
Turn this into your	third paragraph.	

Step 4: YOUR OPINION!

I would like to note at this point that you have already written at least 3 pages on your activist, and spent a whole month researching them, without ever giving your own opinion. YES!! This is how much work it takes to have a valuable opinion that should matter to anyone. I am proud of your and your valuable opinion.

Now you get to share your opinion with us! In your fourth paragraph, try to answer the following questions:

- 1. What do you think about your activist?
- 2. Why does your activist matter to you?
- 3. What is the most important thing your activist has done to advance their cause?
- 4. Why does this cause matter to the world?

OK! Write your opinion in your final paragraph! See the next page for a word bank of ways to express an opinion.

There is a chance you might want to write multiple paragraphs about this. That is fine. The difference between a multi-paragraph opinion and a rant is organization. Each paragraph should address ONE major aspect of your opinion of your activist, then move on.

Expressing an Opinion*

I think/believe that . . .

In my opinion, . . .

Based on my experience, I think . . .

Language of Justification

I believe this because...

My primary reason for thinking so is...

Perhaps the most convincing reason for this is...

Language of Persuasion

Based on the evidence presented so far, I believe that...

Although some people claim that..., opponents argue that....

It is vital to consider...

The advantages of ____ outweigh the disadvantages of ____ insofar as...

The statistics are misleading because they do/not show...

These [facts/reasons/data] strongly suggest that... Yet some argue strongly that....