

Name:

Date:

Persuasive Essay: Exploring Indigenous Topics in *Grey Eyes*

Part 2

In this activity, you will prepare and write a persuasive essay that explores Indigenous topics presented in the novel *Grey Eyes*, by Frank Christopher Busch.

Below are statements that are inspired by *Grey Eyes*. They are followed by persuasive topics.

Step 1: Statements and Persuasive Topics

Choose one of the following topics for your essay:

- 1) Little Grey Bear Boy has the characteristics of an epic hero, one who is "larger than life" and stands as a representative of the people.
 - Persuade the reader to agree/disagree that Bush depicts his hero in real life terms with limitations and flaws as well as strengths.

- 2) The oral tradition has been replaced by written works in many Indigenous cultures such as that of the Nehiyawak.
 - Persuade the reader to agree/disagree that oral tradition is very well illustrated and exemplified in the novel, *Grey Eyes*.

- 3) Busch has integrated traditional Nehiyawak elements such as proverbs, legends and well-known Aboriginal Culture stories (Creation story, White Buffalo Calf Woman).
 - Persuade the reader to agree/disagree that these stories articulate an Aboriginal worldview

- 4) Spiritual knowledge is essential for maintaining a connection with the traditional way of life of our ancestors and our cultures.
 - Persuade the reader to agree/disagree that this statement is true

- 5) A topic of your choice (to be approved by teacher.)

Name:

Date:

Step 2: Preparation

Before you get started, fill out the organization table below.

Opinions	Textual Evidence (passages from the book that prove your point)	Real life examples (experiences/events in your life, in another text, around the world that prove your point)
Opinion 1 :		
Opinion 2:		
Opinion 3:		

Notes:

- In a persuasive essay, your opinions become your "**claims**".
- Your claims are the ideas that support your position. They are the points you make to prove you are right.
- Your persuasive essay will develop 3 claims.

Name:

Date:

Step 3: Planning

Like most essays, a persuasive essay is made up of 5 paragraphs:

- Paragraph 1: Introduction
- Paragraph 2, 3, 4: Development
- Paragraph 5: Conclusion

Step 4: Persuasive Essay Outline

The paragraphs in your persuasive essay should follow this outline:

Introduction:

- Hook (grab the reader's attention)
- Background information about the book and your topic
- Thesis: Rewrite your chosen statement in a way that clearly demonstrates your point of view
- Introduction of your 3 claims (your opinions)

Developing paragraph 1/claim 1:

- Re-introduce your first claim
- Use the textual evidence you found to backup your claim
- Use your real life example to make it stronger

Developing paragraph 2/claim 2:

- Re-introduce your second claim
- Use the textual evidence you found to backup your claim
- Use your real life example to make it stronger

Developing paragraph 3/claim 3:

- Re-introduce your third claim
- Use the textual evidence you found to backup your claim
- Use your real life example to make it stronger

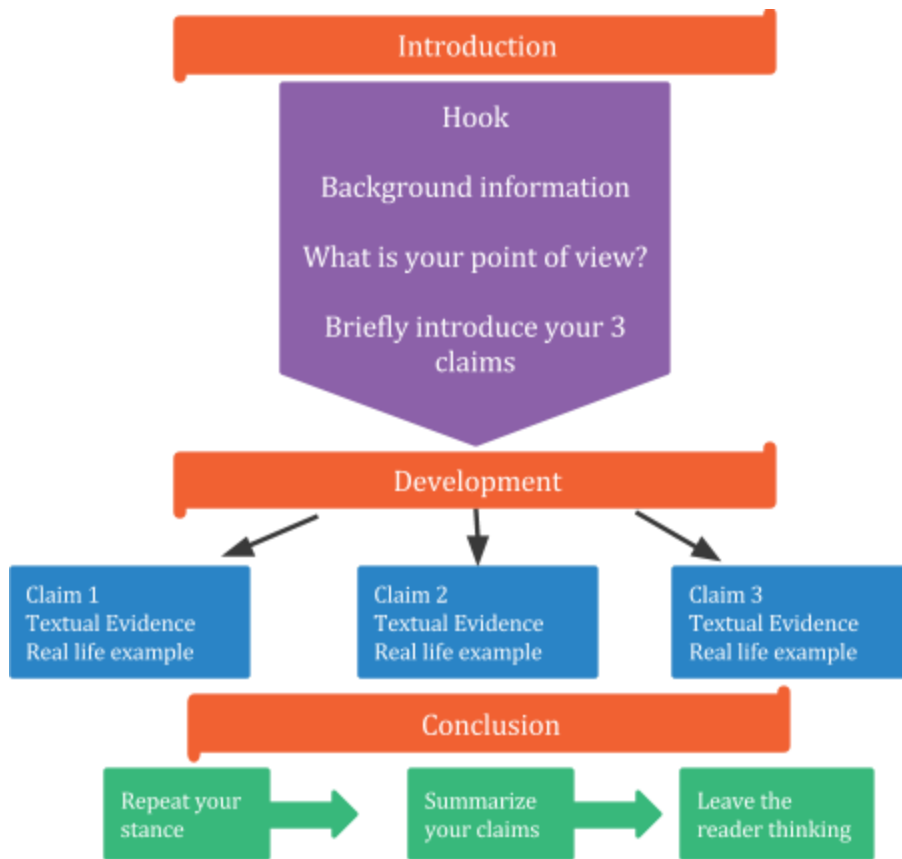
Conclusion:

- Repeat your statement and your point of view
- Summarize your 3 claims
- Invite your reader to think about what you just talked about (with a question, with a new idea or with a suggestion)

Name:

Date:

Step 5: Persuasive Essay Graphic Plan



Tips

Here are some tips to help you write a strong persuasive essay:

- 1) Do some research, find the words/info to help you persuade your reader
- 2) Use the first person when you are writing and use emotional language (ex: feel, need, want, desire, love, believe)
- 3) Predict your reader's arguments against your point of view and debunk them as you write (ex: You may think that spirituality is not important, but I feel that...)
- 4) Order your claims from weakest to strongest
- 5) Don't go in circles. Avoid repeating the same points and use relevant examples.

Name:

Date:

Step 6: Writing

Once all of your planning is done, write a rough draft of **450 words** (75 for your intro, 100 for each developing paragraph, and 75 words for your conclusion).

After editing, re-write your rough draft in pen or type it up on a computer.

Submit it to your teacher by:
