INVENTION

The Advantageous

◆ I. From Issue to Perspective

The Deliberative Essay is a specific, future-oriented kind of Persuasive Essay.

Therefore, the first step in Invention is to identify a person or group of people (preferably a character from a great work of literature or a historical figure) who face a problem around which you can build an issue.

Choose an issue yourself or have the student choose his own.

Once the issue has been assigned or determined, the student should then determine the perspective from which he wishes to write.

Since we recommend that your students write about literature or history, your students will need to be imaginative to do this. They need to place themselves in the shoes of the character or historical figure who needs to make a decision, or in the shoes of a character or figure who is trying to convince the character to make a decision. Then the students should determine a time within that setting from which to write.

For example, if a student’s issue is whether Robert E. Lee should fight for the Union Army, the student might choose to write from the perspective of Lee himself on the eve of having to announce his choice, or from the perspective of Abraham Lincoln who hopes Lee will join him a few weeks before the decision is due, or even from the perspective of Lee’s wife who will be impacted greatly by his choice.

Since the perspective helps focus the student’s thinking, it is very important that students choose their perspective before they do anything else during the Invention phase.

◆ II. Introducing the Proposition for Change

In the Invention stage of the Deliberative Essay, you and your students will also be considering the advantages and disadvantages of your issues, using the rhetorical Invention topic of the Advantageous. To do this, you will fill out a two-column chart that will organize and focus your thinking.
After thinking through the advantages and disadvantages of your issue, you will create an ANI chart, as in Level One. Once you have thoroughly completed your ANI chart, you will decide which side to argue for and you will create a Proposition, which is your Deliberative Essay thesis statement.

Consider, for example, Robert E. Lee, who had to decide whether he should defend his home state of Virginia or whether he should lead the Union Army against that home state. Or consider Menelaus, from *The Iliad*, who had to decide whether to chase his runaway wife, Helen, to Troy.

In making these decisions, both Robert E. Lee and Menelaus had to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of taking action.

If you decide to argue that Lee should defend his home state, your Proposition is “Robert E. Lee should defend his home state”. If you will argue that Menelaus should chase after Helen, your Proposition is, simply put, “Menelaus should chase after his wife.”.

**NB:** When writing a Deliberative Essay about a character from literature or a historical figure, students will need to put themselves in the shoes of that character or figure and imagine how that person might look at the future. Remember, the Deliberative Essay is future oriented.
◆ The Advantages Chart

This chart will help students identify the benefits, costs, expediency, usefulness, and necessity of the proposed action or change.

It looks like this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Sample

Issue: Whether Menelaus should chase his wife, Helen, to Troy?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He could reveal his power</td>
<td>It could lead to war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He might be able to get her back</td>
<td>It could be expensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He could regain his dignity</td>
<td>It would put his life in danger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He would ensure that his people believed in him</td>
<td>She might hate him for it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He could get revenge</td>
<td>Many people could die</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He could conquer Troy</td>
<td>He could anger the gods who favored Troy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample Proposal for Change: Menelaus should chase after Helen and bring her home

Steps to Teach

☐ Ask students how they make decisions
☐ Show students that they need to choose the perspective
☐ Review the ANI chart from the Persuasive Essay
☐ Discuss what it means for something to have advantages and disadvantages
☐ Build some examples in class
☐ Show students what a Proposal is
☐ Review the steps you took to build an ANI chart and create a Proposition for Change
☐ Assign the worksheet in the Student’s Workbook

Assessment

Check that students have

☐ completed the worksheet
☐ Chosen a perspective
☐ Filled out an ANI chart with a predetermined number of items, depending on how many items you required at the end of Level One. Begin there and challenge your students to come up with more during their Level Two essays
☐ Stated a Proposition for Change
INVENTION WORKSHEET

The Advantageous

State the issue

Choose a perspective

<table>
<thead>
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