Name: _____

The Poison Gas Op-Ed

DIRECTIONS:

Pretend you are a news reporter during World War I for the *War Times-Review.* You have been stationed with the American troops on the front lines of the Western Front, and you have seen and heard the gruesome effects of poison gas warfare. Your job is to write an Op-Ed in which you explain to the American public the effects of gas.

First, we will discuss how to write an effective Op-Ed. Then, you will have about 15 minutes to explore the "How Did Poison Gas Change Warfare?" section, using an *Observations Organizer* to record your thoughts and reactions. Lastly, you will have about 20 minutes to write your Op-Ed.

An Op-Ed Writing Session

Qs: What is an Op-Ed? How do you write an effective Op-Ed?

Read the tips from http://extension.oregonstate.edu/eesc/how-to/write-killer-op-ed-piece.

NEXT STEP: Let's analyze a sample op-ed that tries to convince the reader that homework is not as useful as we have thought.

SAMPLE OP-ED

Questions to consider: What does this op-ed do to convince? How effective is the argument? Is the argument simple and straightforward? Are both sides presented?

Read the op-ed from http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/down-homework.

Observations Organizer

DIRECTIONS: As you explore the content in the section titled "How Did Poison Gas Change Warfare?", *jot down your thoughts and reactions using this sheet. Complete sentences are not necessary.*

Reactions to people's descriptions of gas:

Name of person: _____

Reaction:

Name of person: _____

Reaction:

Name of person: _____

Reaction:

Name of person: _____

Reaction:

Thoughts about poem or painting:

Other observations:

Name:

Date:

The War Times-Review

OP-ED SECTION

DIRECTIONS: Write an Op-Ed of at least 3 paragraphs in which you explain to the American public the effects of gas. Use your notes from the *Observations Organizer* and these guiding questions: *To what extent should poison gas play a role in warfare's future? How effective is gas in warfare? How moral is it?*

STRUCTURE:
Paragraph 1 → Summarize your main argument about gas warfare. Hook in reader with most convincing statistics and/or stories.
Paragraph 2 → Compare and contrast other types of warfare with gas. Which is better/worse, and why?
Paragraph 3 → Conclude your argument by restating your main points and offering your opinion of the future of gas warfare.

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