**STAAR Persuasive Outline: 26 lines, or 1 front of page, or 1750 character count**

**HINTS**: Respond to the prompt!! (Off topic scores a 0)

Remember to write in 3rd person (refer to someone else in your examples!)- NO I, ME, MY (a narrative scores a 1)

Use specific word choice and replace repeated words with synonyms

DEFEND your position/claim by describing detailed, descriptive examples/reasons to support your thesis. (**Show** me, don’t tell me!)

CONCLUDE by acknowledging a counterargument then immediately and preferably in the same sentence, SLAM IT as a conclusion.

NEVER write, “In conclusion”!! It’s the last paragraph! I KNOW it’s the conclusion or end!!

OUTLINE:

1-2 sentences- write a “Hook” that grabs your reader’s attention, try to avoid asking a question as it leaves the reader room to disagree and form an opinion about your subject before you ever start.

Ex. “Two teenagers walked casually into their high school in Columbine Colorado with shotguns and 20 minutes later more than 15 of their classmates were lying dead on the cafeteria and library floors.”

STATE YOUR THESIS/CLAIM and REASONS directly after the hook in 1-2 sentences.

Ex. “Schools should have the right to conduct searches of students backpacks and purses and person whenever they see fit because the safety of their students is top priority and the practice is already accepted in other public places.”

In the next paragraph or two, give visual examples or scenarios that support your reasons.

Ex. “Administrators are ultimately responsible for the safety of all students in their school for 8-10 hours a day. If they feel the need to search someone wearing baggy clothes and looking like they are upset, so be it. The student’s right to privacy should not weigh heavier than other’s right to life.” Etc.

“People routinely walk though security gates and body scanner and have their bags searched at airports before they are confined in a plane with 100 strangers to ensure that no one is carrying on a bomb or weapon. The same is true for people entering an amusement park for a day of fun, but with only one entrance and exit, security makes sure no one has a captive shooting gallery. It only makes sense that searches should be conducted on a high school campus where more than 800 over-dramatic teenagers are required to stay locked in rooms for 8 hours a day doing required assignments and taking stressful exams.” Etc.

Finally, address your counterargument and then SLAM IT all in one sentence to conclude essay.

Ex. “While some might argue that searching students’ backpacks and personal property goes against their 4th amendment rights, It would be better to be a little bit offended that a whole lot dead.”

After elaboration where needed to best support your argument, you should have almost a full 1750 character count. :o)