

Argumentative Writing – Response to Literature

Lewis and Clark

Now that you have read “Mapping the West: The Journey of Lewis and Clark” by Michael Stahl and “Sacagawea” by Noah Remnick, write an argumentative essay responding to the following question:

Would Lewis and Clark have been able to succeed in their expedition without the guidance of Sacagawea?

You may also use information from the other sources related to this topic:

- *Lewis and Clark – Great Journey West* (National Geographic)
- From *Undaunted Courage – “Entering Indian Country”* (Stephen Ambrose)

First, choose your position. They **WOULD** have been able to succeed – or – They **WOULD NOT** have been to succeed.

Second, think about how you will introduce your topic and what evidence will be presented in each body paragraph.

- Be sure to identify the source by title and author when first referencing the article(s) or another source.
- You should use a combination of direct quotations from the article(s) as well as paraphrasing (which also must be cited) from the documentary.
- Each body paragraph must have a minimum of ONE (1) reference to the text.
- Think about ideas, facts, definitions, details, and other information and examples you want to use.

Write an argumentative essay in your own words supporting either side of the debate in which you argue for or against the Sacagawea’s role in the expedition. Be sure to use information from both texts (and the documentary if you choose).

When writing your argumentative essay. Be sure to:

- Introduce your claim.
- Support your claim with logical reasoning and relevant evidence from the texts.
- Acknowledge and address alternate or opposing claims.
- Organize the reasons and evidence logically.
- Use words, phrases, and clauses to connect your ideas and to clarify the relationships among claims, counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
- Check your work for correct usage, grammar, spelling, and capitalization.