Activity 1: Paired Debate Essay: Researching Both Sides of an Issue

1. Writing and Research in the Disciplines (ENG 112)
This course, the second in a series of two, introduces research techniques, documentation styles, and writing strategies. Emphasis is placed on analyzing information and ideas and incorporating research findings into documented writing and research projects. Upon completion, students should be able to evaluate and synthesize information from primary and secondary sources using documentation appropriate to various disciplines.

2. Paired Debate Essay: Researching Both Sides of an Issue
Nathan Branson
Students will conduct their research in agreement or disagreement with a statement that is centered around a global issue or problem.

3. Objective:
The purpose of this activity is to help students fully understand multiple sides of a global issue through research and written argumentation.

4. Time:
4 weeks

5. Materials:
1. Access to class learning management system (for example, Moodle, Blackboard) or equivalent used in instructor's classroom to retrieve provided links to sample essays, links to previous research on their debate topic, how-to videos and PowerPoint presentations.
2. Computer and internet access.
3. Suggested resources for research are found at the end of this activity.

6. Procedure:
1. Students will read and we will discuss Chapter 4, “The Typographic Mind,” of Neil Postman’s Amusing Ourselves to Death to understand the basics of a Lincoln Douglas debate. Students will use their research to complete a live debate.
2. Students will be assigned specific debate topics that are about international issues, such as “Globalization is good for the world’s collective future and should be encouraged economically, culturally and socially.” Here is a list of suggested internationally-themed topics:
   * Globalization---Helpful or harmful?
   * Climate Change---Do developed countries have more of a responsibility to fight climate change than developing countries?
   * Is tourism helpful or harmful to the economy, ecology, and culture of developing states? (This topic can also apply to developed countries.)
3. Students will be in groups of four. Two students will decide to do research that agrees with one of the statements in step #2, while the other two students will find research that disagrees or refutes one of the statements above. This will help each group prepare for the debate so that they know both sides of the issue thoroughly. Students complete online or classroom assignments to decide which side best suits their interests.

4. Students do research with their partners in class to complete an Annotated Bibliography.

5. Students write first page and a half of essay with partner.

6. Students post “Rough Draft” on Moodle forum for other students to proofread, revise, and edit.

7. Students turn in 3 and a half page essay on their assigned international debate topic. Their essay should reflect thorough research and careful thought about their international topic.

8. Students will then participate in a live debate in front of the class.

7. Assessment:

Students turn in 3 and a half page essay on their assigned international debate topic. Their essay should reflect thorough research and careful thought about their international topic. Their research will then help them in the live debate in front of the class.

Suggested Rubric items:
- Students complete a short, informal annotated bibliography.
- Essay is 3 and a half full pages (not including bibliography).
- Prompt guidelines are followed.
- Essay reflects thorough research and careful thought about debate stance.
- Essay uses sound grammar and punctuation.
- Essay maintains standards of academic writing.
- Essay style is considered.
- All references to any outside sources are properly cited in both in-text citations and bibliography citations.
- All claims made by the students are substantiated through evidence from outside sources and/or thorough explanation of the students’ thought process.
- Discussion is well-developed.
- Discussion is coherent.
- Essay is organized.
- MLA format is followed in essay layout and documentation.
Activity #1 Suggested Resources for Debate Topics

Debate Topic #1:

Statement: Globalization------Helpful or hurtful? (Is globalization a good or a bad trend for the future of the world? What are the pros and cons of globalization?)

Suggested Resources:

Resources that shed light on the advantages of globalization:

- *The World is Flat* by Thomas Friedman (Book)
- "The Rise of the Creative Class" by Richard Flordia
- "The Pencil" by Milton Friedman (Youtube Video)

Resources that shed light on the disadvantages of globalization:

- "Conservation and the Local Economy" by Wendell Berry
- "McDonaldization of Society" by George Ritzer
- *Manufactured Landscape* (Documentary)
- * Provincializing Europe* Dipesh Chakrabarty (This is a complex book which might be too complex. Excerpts from this book would be best. )

Resources recommended by the Center for European Studies at UNC Chapel Hill:

- When countries apply for membership or become members of the EU, poor regions receive “structural and cohesion funds” to help jumpstart development. There is a fantastic, quick definition of this program with an accompanying YouTube video here:

http://lexicon.ft.com/Term?term=EU-structural-funds

Resources recommended by the Carolina Asia Center at UNC Chapel Hill:

- General Resources on Globalization:
-Resources More Specific to Debate Topic:


Debate Topic #2:

Statement: Climate Change------Do developed countries have more of a responsibility to fight climate change than developing countries?

Suggested Resources:


Resources recommended by the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations:

- Climate change is an issue that is very relevant to this part of the world. Water resources are increasingly scarce in the Middle East
- Environmental crisis in Israel
  - Alon Tal has written many books on this topic as a leading Israeli environmental activist, co-founder of the Israel Union for Environmental Defense, the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies and the Green Zionist Alliance.

Resource recommended by the Center for European Studies:

- The following article discusses the E.U.’s issues with getting certain nations on board with new climate policies.

Resources suggested by the Carolina Asia Center at UNC Chapel Hill:


• Environment, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management:  http://www.adb.org/themes/environment/main


• Economics of Climate Change in East Asia:  http://www.adb.org/publications/economics-climate-change-east-asia


• Assessing the Costs of Climate Change and Adaptation in South Asia:  http://www.adb.org/publications/assessing-costs-climate-change-and-adaptation-south-asia

**Debate Topic #3:**

**Statement:** Is tourism helpful or harmful to the economy, ecology, and culture of developing states? (This topic can also apply to developed countries.)

**Suggested Resources:**

**Resource from the UNC Chapel Hill Media Resources Center:**

• **Documentary:** *Gringo Trails* (2015) (Bolivia, Thailand, Mali, and Bhutan)  
  (this film is available through the UNC Chapel Hill Media Resources Center  
  http://search.lib.unc.edu/filmfinder/)

**Resource from the Center for European Studies at UNC Chapel Hill:**

• **Here’s a resource on the effects of tourism on a developed country:** The EU has a “European Destination of Excellence” Award – the Burren Food Trail
was just named the 2015 recipient. This is obviously not a developing state (Ireland), but the debate topic can include developed countries as well - as tourism can be harmful/helpful to the economy, ecology, and culture of developed areas as well. This article provides some more information on the trail, food tourism, and sustainability.

http://www.failteireland.ie/Footer/Media-Centre/The-Burren-Food-Trail-is-Cream-of-the-Crop.aspx

Resources from the Carolina Asia Center at UNC Chapel Hill:


- World Tourism Organization: http://www.e-unwto.org/