**Introductory Script for Assessment:**

“You’re going to have a chance to show off what you know about doing quick, intensive research, and creating an argumentative essay. Over the next couple of periods, you’ll encounter a few texts that will provide you with information and claims about a topic with opposing view-points. It will be up to you to really analyze the information and ideas, so that you can state your own claim and justify it, using researched evidence.

For each text, you’ll have a chance to take notes on the main points and the evidence that supports those points. Then you’ll have some time to look over your research. You will write a persuasive/argumentative essay, arguing one side. You’ll want to acknowledge the sides of the argument, cite research that backs your claim, and take a clear stance on your argument.

Today is part one of this research project. You’ll have a chance to read a text today and to take notes on the most important ideas and information.”

**Day 1:**

Task 1: Approximately 45 minutes total time

Reading to gather information for essays

Text: Teacher supplied

“Now you’ll have a chance to study an informational article. While reading this, take notes on the central idea in this article, and explain how key details get this idea across to the reader. Remember to quote some passages directly so that you capture the author’s language exactly.”

**Day 2:**

Task 2: Approximately 45 minutes total time

Texts: Teacher supplied

“Now you’ll have a chance to study an informational article. While reading this, take notes on the central idea in this article, and explain how key details get this idea across to the reader. Remember to quote some passages directly so that you capture the author’s language exactly.”

**Day 3:**

Task 3: Approximately 45 minutes

Argument Writing

“Researchers, you’ve done some good research now by studying the information in the three articles and the ideas of these authors. Now, you’ll want to look over your summaries and notes, and the texts as well if you’d like, and decide, based on the best evidence from both articles, which side of the argument you will take up.

Then, write an essay, clearly supporting one side of this argument, and supporting that claim with convincing evidence you’ve gathered in your research. You’ll want to include information and details from the articles to support your claim. Use as many pages in the essay booklet that you need.

You’ll want to take a few minutes to plan how your draft will go, and remember what you know about writing convincing arguments, including the information in the checklist...”

Refer to student checklist…