Writing Assignments Based on *Soldiers of Peace* by Paul K. Chappell

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For use in introductory college classes in English

**Writing to Reflect**

**Prompt:**

Write a reflection on the preface for *Soldiers of Peace*.

**Brainstorm:**

While you are reading the preface, focus on the following:

- Chappell’s concept of preliterate
- Chappell’s references to history, Greek mythology, and other references
- Chappell’s use of the constellation of peace
- Chappell’s goal for the book
- Any surprising statements

**Consider:**

After having some initial thoughts, ask the following:

- Did you understand what Chappell was saying?
- Did the metaphors help or hinder your understanding?
- Did the references help or hinder your understanding?
- Did you find yourself surprised by anything Chappell says?
- Did you consider and maybe question in your opinions while reading?

**Write:**

To write your 1-page reflection, ponder the following:

- Introduction: how will you begin this reflection?
- Organization/Body: what key points do you want to discuss?
- Conclusion: what one epiphany do you have after reading the preface?
Writing to Comment

Prompt:

Write a short commentary response on a topic of concern from *Soldiers of Peace*, “Star of Training.” This academic response is your opportunity to comment on an issue of interest: “Commenting is a more personal and opinionated style and needs to be more subjective.” It will be a blend of fact and opinion, but it is always academic. Writing to comment does not mean that you necessarily mean you need to persuade quite yet.

Brainstorm:

After reading chapter 2, refer to list of possible topics again, considering the following:

- What topics did you understand?
- What one major passage do you want to be your focus?

Consider:

After choosing one of the topics as your focus, ponder the following:

- What does your passage and topic say about our society and peace?
- Why does your topic matter?
- What support do you have from Mr. Chappell’s text?
- What do you want to say about this topic?

Write:

To write your draft, prepare the following:

- Purpose: what is the purpose of informing on this topic?
- Audience: who is your target audience? Has it changed from your expository?
- Organization: what is the best way to organize your topic since it is only two pages?
- Introduction: use a lengthy passage as you introduction.
- Thesis/Claim: refer back to your purpose; set your tone.
- Body: what specific details are needed from the chapter? What other lines of support will you be using?
- Conclusion: final thoughts; relevant statement
Writing to Inform

Prompt:

Write an expository essay on a topic of concern from Soldiers of Peace. Your essay may explain, define, or describe; however, you will not persuade or argue just yet.

Brainstorm:

After reading chapter 1, refer to list of possible topics again, considering the following:

- What topics did you understand?
- What topics do you find interesting?

Consider:

After choosing one of the topic as your focus, ponder the following:

- What does your topic say about our society and peace?
- Why does your topic matter?
- What support do you have from Mr. Chappell’s text?
- What do you want to say about this topic?

Write:

To write your draft, prepare the following:

- Purpose: what is the purpose of informing on this topic?
- Audience: who is your target audience?
- Organization: what is the best way to organize your topic?
- Introduction: how will you draw the audience into your topic (consider why it matters to society)
- Thesis/Claim: refer back to your purpose; set your tone.
- Body: what specific details are needed from the chapter? What lines of support will you be using? (Remember, this is NOT persuasion or opinion)
- Conclusion: final thoughts; relevant statement

Reminders:

- Consult the Achieving Academic Voice for College Writing sheet
- Explain your topic and its importance to society:
  http://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/introductions/
- Support your ideas with lines from the text:
  http://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/quotations/
- Other help? Visit the UNC Writing Center
  https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/
**Writing to Argue**

Length: 8-pages printed (does not include Works Cited page)
Sources: Four Sources (two must be from UIndy Database) + *Soldiers of Peace* as primary source

**Expectations:**

1. Read Chapter 3: “Star of Truth” next week when we do NOT have class
2. Write a 3-page short draft of your topic without research for the week following Fall Break. This will read by your teammates for discussion. This should include all of the key parts of your argument for your topic, much like what you have already written; however, it must include ideas from Chapter 3 as well. You will then insert research as needed for the following week’s draft. We will be discussing how to research and cite during class that week.

**Prompt:**
Write an argument essay on a topic of social concern inspired by *Soldiers of Peace*. Your essay may explain, define, or describe, but the main purpose of your essay is to choose a side and argue your points.

**Brainstorm:**
As always, consider the issues of concern that Mr. Chappell has discussed in Chapter 3.

- Choose an issue of current relevance and one that matters to you. You may choose a topic that you’ve already written about as long as it is also discussed in Chapter 3.

**Consider:**
After making initial observations, ask the following:

- What does your topic say about our society?
- Why does your topic matter?

**Write Outline and Draft:**
To write your outline and minimum 3-page draft (out of 8), consider the following:

- Your introduction should be at least ½ page or longer
- What background do you need to give on your topic?
- You need to organize your information including a counter-argument
- Claim: what do you want to argue and why is it relevant
- Body: you must determine the main points of your argument
- No research beyond Chappell is necessary for the draft

**Due Dates:**

- 3-page printed draft
- 8-page draft with Works Cited
- Final 8-page essay
Writing to Evaluate

Prompt:

Write an evaluation of Soldiers of Peace. You will be judging his work to assess a value by determining the worth, merit, and significance of it.

Brainstorm:

- As you consider Mr. Chappell’s text, what did you gain from reading it? Additionally, is his text worthy of being taught in an English composition course? Can you see it being taught or read in other settings? What might those be?

Consider:

- Peace Literacy and its relevance in our society

Write Response:

- Purpose: to evaluate the work of Mr. Chappell and Soldiers of Peace
- Audience: your peers and others who might be interested
- Organization: see below
- Introduction: refer to the text properly and utilize one of his lines to demonstrate his purpose
- Thesis/Claim: make clear your evaluation of his work
- Body: use direct references to the texts with specific lines as evidence
- Conclusion: final thought

Outline:

1. Introduction/Thesis:
   a. Give a brief summary of his work: topics, focus, etc.
   b. Give an example or two of his style and purpose
   c. Thesis of Evaluation
2. Body Paragraphs: Possibilities
   a. His purpose
   b. His audience
   c. His usefulness
   d. His topics
   e. His organization
   f. His illustrations/figures
   g. His examples
   h. His repetitiveness
3. Concluding Thoughts
   a. Would you recommend this book or his others?
   b. Who should read this book?
   c. Does it serve a purpose?
   d. What does it do for the readers?