**Paper Planning Packet**

**Directions:** Below you will find a variety of ways your students might organize their thoughts and plan their paper. Decide which, if any, you will share with your students.

**Track Your Sources**

Use the planner below to help you organize the points you found interesting or important in the sources (written work, presentations, and discussions) that you have analyzed so far. For each point, cite the source, summarize the point, and explain your reaction to it and whether any other sources you have encountered seem to “talk back” to or address the point.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Summary of Point or Argument (What claim or argument from this source stood out to you as particularly powerful or memorable?)</th>
<th>Personal Reaction (Do you agree or disagree with the point cited? Agree with some parts, and disagree with others? Explain your reaction.)</th>
<th>“Talk Back” (Which other sources seem to address similar points or can be used to support or refute the point you cited? Explain.)</th>
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My conclusions or message: After analyzing and reacting to the different sources I’ve encountered, I believe the American Dream should be ...
Sentence Frames

If you are having trouble getting started writing, you may want to look at the “sentence frames” below to help you present your ideas.

**Introduction:**

Throughout American history, people have dreamed about . . .

Some have believed that the American Dream should be . . ., while others have thought that . . .

The idea of the American Dream is important because . . .

In my opinion, the American Dream should be . . .

I believe this because . . .

**Body Paragraph 1:**

(Explain your first claim . . .)

We can see that this is true because . . . (explain your reasons and evidence, using transition words like also, moreover, for example, etc.)

Some might argue that . . . (counterclaim)

While . . . might be true/is understandable/has some merit (show that you understand the counterclaim), . . . (explain your response and prove that the counterclaim is false)

**Body Paragraph 2:**

In addition (explain your second claim)

(Repeat the general structure of Body Paragraph 1. For subsequent paragraphs, be sure to use transitions.)
Signal Words/Phrases
Use the words and phrases below to help you transition between ideas and paragraphs.

For continuing a common line of reasoning:
consequently
clearly, then
furthermore
additionally
and
in addition
moreover
because
besides that
in the same way
following this further
also
pursuing this further
in light of the . . .it is easy to see that
granted
no doubt
nobody denies
obviously
of course
to be sure
true
undoubtedly
unquestionably
generally speaking
in general
at this level
in this situation

To change the line of reasoning (contrast):
however
on the other hand
but
yet
nevertheless
on the contrary

For opening a paragraph initially or for general use:
admittedly
assuredly
certainly
For the final points of a paragraph or essay:

finally
lastly

To signal conclusion:

therefore
this
hence
in the final analysis
in conclusion
in final consideration
indeed

To restate a point within a paragraph in another way or in a more exacting way:

in other words
point in fact
specifically

Sequence or time:

after
afterwards
as soon as
at first
at last
before
meanwhile
next
soon
then
before long
finally
first... second... third
in the first place
in the meantime
later