**Name:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Argument Essay**

**Do Zoos Help or Harm Animals?**

**Directions:**

* **Read the five texts that are included in your packet.**
* **Decide what you think: Do zoos help or harm animals? Choose one side of the argument and write an essay convincing others of your opinion.**
* **As you read, ask yourself the guiding question, “Do zoos help or harm animals?”**
* **Use your notes included in the packet and your t-chart to guide you as you take a side of this historical debate.**
* **Create a boxes and bullets graphic organizer to help you plan your essay.**
* **In the introduction to your essay, write a claim stating whether or not you think zoos help or harm animals.**
* **Be sure to list the titles of the texts that you use in your essay.**
* **Be sure to list the evidence that supports your point of view and your inference/claim. List the evidence in order of strongest support of your claim to the weaker details that support your claim.**

* **Write as much as you can, as quickly as you can. You may use several sheets of loose-leaf paper. I expect that this essay will be about two pages.**
* **Use the rubric and especially the writing checklist to ensure that you include all that is required to make your essay powerful.**
* **In your writing, make sure you:**
* **Write your inference/claim in your introduction.**
* **Use transition words to start new paragraphs and to introduce new examples from the text.**
* **Give at several examples from the text as your evidence to support your inference/claim.**
* **Use statements such as, “I know this because in paragraph \_\_\_\_it states,…”**
* **Write a conclusion.**
* **Check your writing for:** 
  + **spelling**
  + **capitalization of proper nouns**
  + **capitalization of the beginning of sentences**
  + **punctuation**
  + **indentation of each new paragraph**
  + **interesting word choice**
  + **See the rubric for more details of expectations.**