Essay final topics and instruction – Kindig

**Purpose**: Students will prepare a research based persuasive/argumentative paper about a current topic.

**Objectives**: to use written communication effectively for persuasive purposes, to use technology for research, to follow APA citation guidelines, to use proper conventions, spelling, grammar, and mechanics, to practice the one sitting writing prompt for the ISTEP test graduation requirement.

**Standards**: RN2.1, W3.1,3.2, W4, W5, W6.1, 6.2

**Implementation**: Students will have **25 minutes** to use the internet for research, they will then have **55 minutes** to write their essays. Students should use proper **APA format**, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, conventions, and mechanics. As this is a formal paper, formal standard English is to be used as well. Students should have at least **TWO CREDIBLE** sources to which they refer in their papers.

**At the conclusion of the allotted time, students need to submit their finished essay to turnitin.com**

Essay Topics:

1. **Teaching to the Test** – Should teachers just teach test prep, or should they provide an expanded curriculum that appeals to student interest, and/or curriculum that helps prepare students for college or careers? Research credible sources for this topic and present your findings in a persuasive or argumentative format.
2. **Balanced Curriculum** - Is it possible to attain high standardized test scores while still teaching curriculum that engages and stimulates student learners? Give credible reasons that support your opinion.

1. **Student Accountability** – How much of student success, or engagement in learning, should be the responsibility of the student? Research student achievement in relation to teaching effectiveness. Include trends and credible examples to support your position.

1. **Motivating Student Learners** – Research proven methods and/or means that can be utilized to engage student learners for the purpose of increased interest and performance.
2. **Transfer of Passion** – Is passion contagious if properly presented? What methods have been proven to be effective in passing on a love of knowledge (this can be for ANYTHING – reading, sports, cooking, etc.). Research success stories of passionate coaches, instructors, and mentors and determine if success is only possible for a few, or if it can be duplicated by anyone.
3. **Student ‘buy-in’ -**  What does it take to increase the ‘buy-in’ or the amount that a student ‘gets’ the purpose of classroom learning? Research credible articles and information pertaining to getting students to value their free education.