**Essay #3 Invention Exercise**

As a brainstorming activity, this exercise is designed to get you to explore your thinking on your essay topic. It starts by providing an initial space for you to COLLECT information and support related to your topic and then think about a plan for “making your case.” *Therefore, this exercise may take you some time to complete.*

1. Examine your chosen essay topic closely and the (fictional) writing situation surrounding it. Freewrite for five or ten minutes about what you envision you will need to do to “make your case” in this essay.

2. Review your chosen essay topic and state your Essay Question and your Thesis.

Essay Question:

Thesis (Answer):

*Seek to make your thesis a clear declarative sentence that works as an answer to the essay question. See pgs. 5-6 of the* [*Essay Cycle #3 Assignment Sheet*](http://www.lirvin.net/1301sitebb/EC3F19.pdf) *and use the Essay Question as stated there.*

3. This essay is not about your opinion or other people’s opinions or thoughts on the subject—your job is to represent what Markham is saying on this issue in your paper. Use the following space to COLLECT examples and instances from Markham’s text in support of your thesis.

* For topic #1 list instances or examples Markham writes about that discuss or identify the key causes for why this population leaves their home country.
* For topic #2 list instances or examples Markham writes about that discusses or identifies the key struggles immigrants experience in their journey from their home country, especially children, and the impact these struggles have on these child immigrants.
* For topic #3 list instances or examples Markham writes about that discusses or identifies the biggest challenges these new immigrants face trying to make a new life in the United States.
* For topic #4 list instances or examples Markham writes about that discusses or identifies the key things this book and story reveals about the U.S. immigration system and/or who we are as a country.

*List as much support for your topic in the form of quotes from the text as you can in any order (be sure to include the page #).
--post your list into the Collaborative Evidence Collecting sheet found in the E3 Module in Canvas.*

4. Review your random list of instances and examples from the text in support of your thesis. (Return to the text to keep searching if you don’t have much support.) Review the list of supporting quotes found in the Collaborative Collecting sheets. Copy and Paste the entire list of support from the Collaborative Evidence Collecting sheet here. Review this list and then seek to GROUP together instances/supports that seem to relate to each other. Cut and paste to move quotes around in groups. Skip a line between each grouping.

5. Review your support now in its sorted, grouped form. Which groupings (even a pair) seem strongest and most important? Copy and Paste THREE of the strongest and best groups of support here, and create a LABEL to go with each grouping that describes or characterizes that grouping. Put the LABEL above each group.

6. Your next task is to look at these groupings of supports as REASONS in support of the thesis. REASONS are stated in “because” clauses. Copy and Paste your Essay Question and Thesis from question #2 here. *Rephrase the wording of your thesis if needed.*

Then copy your thesis three times below and follow each version of your thesis with a “because” clause expressing each of your primary Groups of support from question #5. (Your LABEL should help you do this and find the “because” phrasing.)

Example:
Essay Question: Are Google, Amazon, and Facebook really contradictory and even dishonest?
Thesis: These companies are hypocrites and much of what they do contradicts their vision.

These companies are hypocrites and much of what they do contradicts their vision because their self-serving actions contradict their collective, common good ethos.

These companies are hypocrites and much of what they do contradicts their vision because …

These companies are hypocrites and much of what they do contradicts their vision because …

7. Review the mini-outline of your argument you have created in #6. Write for 5-10 minutes about how you feel about this set up. Are you comfortable yet with this plan for your overall argument? What more do you need to do at this point?