Persuasive Essay- *Lord of the Flies*

What is a persuasive essay?

* An attempt to convince readers to understand and respect your ideas and to make them come to your side of the argument
* Use logic and evidence from the novel and non-fiction sources to convince your reader
* Persuasion can come in the form of **compare/contrast** (Ralph vs. Jack) and **cause and effect** (Boys follow Jack because..)
* Remember there is another side to the argument. You can help your own cause by presenting the opposing viewpoint and refuting it. Use words such as “refute, in consideration, concede, in recognition, in understanding,”

**Criteria:**

* Approximately 700-1200 words (3 pages)
* **Approximately** five paragraphs (intro, 3 body, conclusion)
* Correct use of quotations – no quote bombs! Minimum of 3 quotes.
* Correct use of academic writing as discussed in class
* Evidence from the novel- Strong Evidence!
* Works cited at the end of the essay if using a non-fiction source
* Typed and double spaced
* Done in class on Wednesday and Thursday
* **DUE Thursday, Oct. 29th**

Choose ONE question

*Jean Jacques Rousseau, the 18th Century philosopher, states that "Man is by nature, good. It is society that corrupts the "noble savage". Do you agree or disagree? Are humans naturally "good" or "bad"?*

1. **Why do you think the boys dissolved into such violent behaviour by the end of the novel? Do you think Golding is right in his philosophy that without the rules and structures of society and moral integrity the “evil” in the boys was exposed?**

Explain your reasoning using supporting details from *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. I suggest using the “The Milgram Experiment” by Saul McLeod, and/or the “Teenage Brain” by Amanda Leigh Mascarelli. Make sure you refute counterarguments using logical reasoning and evidence not just your opinion. You can also read about the “Stanford Prison Experiment” as reference as well. <http://www.prisonexp.org/>

*Niccolo Machiavelli was a 16th century Italian philosopher. He wrote a political document called* The Prince*. In it he claims that "humans are wretched creatures" and it is better for a leader to be feared than loved. Do you agree or disagree? Should a leader by feared or loved?*

1. **Who is the more effective leader, Jack or Ralph? Why?**

**OR**

1. **Should a leader by feared or loved to be effective? Refer to the novel for examples and possible historical examples. Use facts with evidence.**

**OR**

1. **Do you think Jack is responsible for the death of Piggy and Simon?**

**Or**

1. **Fear is responsible for the boy’s downfall.**

**Or**

1. **Simon is the symbol of Jesus.**

Explain your reasoning using supporting details from *Lord of the Flies*. Make sure you refute counterarguments using logical reasoning and evidence.

**References:**

<http://www.mesacc.edu/~paoih30491/intropgph.html> (how to write a persuasive essay)

<http://www.time4writing.com/writing-resources/writing-resourcespersuasive-essay/> (how to write a persuasive essay)

<http://prezi.com/_mcm92ykqa_b/nature-vs-nurture-for-lord-of-the-flies-by-patricia-pivaronas-pd-5/> (Prezi showing idea of nature vs nurture)

<https://student.societyforscience.org/article/teenage-brain> (the article about your brain)

<http://psychology.about.com/od/historyofpsychology/a/milgram.htm> (an article about the Milgram Experiment)

<http://www.prisonexp.org/> (Stanford Prison Experiment)

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/> How to incorporate cite works into your text

<http://www.easybib.com/> How to cite your works in a bibliography

See by Edublog under “Lord of the Flies” for some examples of essays done in the past AND an example of a body paragraph for question #1