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

**Claim Sentence Starters and Example Essay for Culture Project**

**Claim Statement Sentence Frames:**

**Directions**: Use the following examples as ideas for how to construct a solid claim statement for this project.

**Example #1:**

American culture is more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the culture of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ due to

(similar or different) (the country of your choice)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

(list three reasons why)

**Example #2:**

Although American culture is similar to the culture of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

(the country of your choice)

in terms of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, they are different

(name two similarities)

due to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

(name one difference)

**\*\*You are more than welcome to write your own claim statement, based on the evidence and research you conduct. In fact, if you use one of my claim statement starters, you can only earn up to a “Proficient” in the “Claim Statement” category.\*\***

**Example of a Solid Essay that Follows the Grading Rubric**

Mexico and Colombia are countries located in North America and South America, respectively. Both countries’ were conquered by the Spanish during the Age of Exploration. *[Historical Background Information]* **When thinking of the seven elements of culture, Mexico and Columbia are similar in their Roman Catholic beliefs and their primary language spoken, but slightly different when it comes to their national holidays.** *[Claim Statement]* To start off, Mexicans and Colombians primarily practice the Roman Catholic faith. *[Introduce Evidence #1]* In fact, 83% of Mexicans are Roman Catholic (“Mexico”). Similarly, about 90% of Columbians are also Roman Catholic (“Colombia”). *[Cite Evidence #1]* Thus, these facts demonstrate that Mexico and Columbia’s cultures are very similar when it comes to their residents practicing the Roman Catholic faith because they believe in the same God and have the same type of church. *[Analysis and Prove the Claim #1]* In addition, Mexico and Columbia are more similar than different when it comes to the language of their inhabitants. *[Transition and Introduce Evidence #2]* Both Mexico and Colombia have Spanish as their official language (“Mexico” and “Colombia”). *[Cite Evidence #2*] Since the people of these countries speak Spanish, communication and trade are easier than if they spoke different languages. *[Analysis and Prove the Claim #2]* Although Mexico and Colombia are similar when it comes to their religious beliefs and their languages spoken, they are a bit different when it comes to their national holidays. *[Introduce Evidence #3*] In Mexico, the people celebrate their independence day on September 16th and also celebrate Cinco de Mayo, which was a victory for the Mexican people over the French (“Mexico”). In Colombia, on the other hand, Colombians celebrate July 20th for their Independence Day and the Independence of Cartagena on November 11th (“Colombia”). *[Cite Evidence #3]* Despite the fact that both countries’ celebrate Roman Catholic holidays such as Christmas and Easter, they are slightly different because their independence days are not on the same date. *[Analysis and Proving the Claim #3]* Overall, the cultures of Mexico and Colombia are more similar than different due to their faith in Roman Catholicism and their official language but slightly different when it comes to their national holidays. *[Concluding Statement*] When thinking about other elements of culture, such as their governments and economic systems, it would be interesting to see if Mexico and Colombia are still more similar than different. *[Leave the reader with something to ponder]*

**So, the overall format for this short research essay is…**

1. Introduction Sentence/Historical Background Information (1-2 sentences)
2. Claim Statement with 3 pieces of evidence (1 sentence)
3. Introduce Evidence #1 (1 sentence)
4. Cite Evidence #1 (1 sentence)
5. Analysis and Prove the Claim #1 (1 sentence)
6. Transition and Introduce Evidence #2 (1 sentence)
7. Cite Evidence #2 (1 sentence)
8. Analysis and Prove the Claim #2 (1 sentence)
9. Transition and Introduce Evidence #3 (1 sentence)
10. Cite Evidence #3 (1 sentence)
11. Analysis and Prove the Claim #3 (1 sentence)
12. Concluding Statement: Restate the claim (1 sentence)
13. Leave the reader with something to ponder (1-2 sentences)

**Grand Total: 13-15 sentences** (with slight variations possible)

**How to Complete In-Text Citations**

When you paraphrase or quote directly from an online article, you need to complete some in-text citations.

For example…

In Mexico, 83% of people practice the Roman Catholic faith (“Mexico”).

According to a CultureGrams article on Mexico, 83% of people are Roman Catholic (“Mexico”).

**If two citations look the exact same but are from different resources, you need to differentiate between the two.**

For example…

In Mexico, 83% of people practice the Roman Catholic faith (“Mexico” *CultureGrams*).

**Basic in-text citation rules[[1]](#footnote-1)**

In MLA style, referring to the works of others in your text is done by using what is known as **parenthetical citation**. This method involves placing relevant source information in parentheses after a quote or a paraphrase.

**General Guidelines**

* The source information required in a parenthetical citation depends (1.) upon the source medium (e.g. Print, Web, DVD) and (2.) upon the source’s entry on the Works Cited (bibliography) page.
* Any source information that you provide in-text must correspond to the source information on the Works Cited page. More specifically, whatever signal word or phrase you provide to your readers in the text, must be the first thing that appears on the left-hand margin of the corresponding entry in the Works Cited List.

**In-text citations: Author-page style**

MLA format follows the author-page method of in-text citation. This means that the author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text, and a complete reference should appear on your Works Cited page. The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence. For example:

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).   
  
Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

Both citations in the examples above, (263) and (Wordsworth 263), tell readers that the information in the sentence can be located on page 263 of a work by an author named Wordsworth. If readers want more information about this source, they can turn to the Works Cited page, where, under the name of Wordsworth, they would find the following information:

Wordsworth, William. *Lyrical Ballads*. London: Oxford UP, 1967. Print.

**In-text citations for print sources with no known author**

When a source has no known author, use a shortened title of the work instead of an author name. Place the title in quotation marks if it's a short work (such as an article) or italicize it if it's a longer work (e.g. plays, books, television shows, entire Web sites) and provide a page number.

We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has "more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change . . ." ("Impact of Global Warming" 6).

In this example, since the reader does not know the author of the article, an abbreviated title of the article appears in the parenthetical citation which corresponds to the full name of the article which appears first at the left-hand margin of its respective entry in the Works Cited. Thus, the writer includes the title in quotation marks as the signal phrase in the parenthetical citation in order to lead the reader directly to the source on the Works Cited page. The Works Cited entry appears as follows:

"The Impact of Global Warming in North America." *Global Warming: Early Signs*. 1999. Web. 23 Mar. 2009.

1. Purdue University OWL Resource Center, “Basic In-Text Citation Rules,” *The OWL at Purdue*, 3 March 2014, <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)