**Continental Drift Argumenative Writing:**

**Name: Date: Period:**

**Objective:**

Students will be able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of Alfred Wegner’s Theory of Continental Drift citing the evidence available to him at the time.

**Argumentative Writing:**

* Introduce claim(s) about a topic or issue; acknowledges and distinguishes the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organizes the reasons and evidence logically.
* Supports claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant, accurate data, and evidence that demonstrates an understanding of the topic or text, using credible sources.
* Uses words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and to clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
* Establishes and maintains a formal style.
* Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.

*\*Howard County High School Science Argument Quickcard*

**Keys to Argumentative Writing:**

* A point of view must be supported by evidence
* Summarize or repeating material is not enough
* Must identify counterarguments (what your opponent would say) in order to invalidate what your opponents would say to discount you.

*\*Adapted from Howard County High School Science Argument Quickcard*

**Procedure:**

You are going to take on the role of Alfred Wegener in the year 1912 when he suggested the Theory of Continental Drift. In this argumentative writing piece, you are going to write a paper aimed at the Science Department of the prestigious University of Gittermann. You must write a paper that convinces the Science Department that you are correct in your Theory of Continental Drift in order to graduate from the University. You must assume that they are all from different disciplines of science (biology, chemistry, etc.), therefore it will be necessary for you to explain what your theory is, your argument for that theory, evidence for that theory, and any counter points or arguments against your Theory. Remember, this is 1912, not current times, thus relative recent discoveries (Theory of Plate Tectonics, Sonar mapping of the ocean floor, etc.) are not available yet.

**Introduction:**

Provide the Science Department with a short description of your theory. This will eventually become the introductory paragraph to your paper.

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**Evidence and Arguments:**

List and describe the evidence you have accumulated to support your Theory of Continental Drift.

**Evidence #1:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Description of Evidence:

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**Evidence #2:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Description of Evidence:

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**Evidence #3:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Description of Evidence:

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**Evidence #4:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Description of Evidence:

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**Counterarguments:**

Your biggest adversary is the evil Dr. Gittermann, who reigns supremely over the Science Department of the University that was founded by his great, great, great grandfather. You will need to be ready for any point that he may bring up to discount or discredit what you are trying to prove. List what potential problems he may have with your theory and how you plan to address them.

**Counterpoint #1:**

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**How you plan to acknowledge it:**

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**Counterpoint #2:**

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**How you plan to acknowledge it:**

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**Conclusion:**

It will be necessary for you to restate your hypothesis and quickly back it up with a short review of your support. End with a good conclusion statement.

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**Final Draft:**

Once you are done with the above framework, it will be a good idea to take it to Dr. Gittermann’s younger brother, Mr. Gittermann who is currently your Geology Professor. Have him it look it over before you type your final draft. He has also stolen a copy of the grading rubric that Dr. Gittermann has developed to analyze your paper. Take this into account as your write your final draft.

1. Introductory Paragraph: Explains theory, provides over insight into it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/3
2. Body: Multiple evidence for theory given and explained in detail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10
3. Body: Counterarguments given and addressed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/5
4. Conclusion: Reviews theory and arguments for it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/2
5. Format & Style: Paper is typed, grammatically sound, and written at a high school level

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/5