**Spread the Word to End the Word RAFT Writing Assignment**

*Planning Sheet*

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Core Class:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Your task*: Lately, I’ve been hearing people use the word “retarded” around school. They’ve been saying “you’re retarded” when their friends trip, or drop their books, or say something silly. However, we know that the “r word” is hate speech. We have to be leaders in eliminating it from the world’s vocabulary.

**You will write a blog post that raises awareness and convinces people to stop saying the “r word”.**

**Role**: Blog editor, Well-informed student

**Audience**: The general public

**Format:** Blog post *(blog: a regularly updated web page that is written in an informal or conversational style)*

**Topic:** Educate people about the use of the “r-word” (its history and meaning) and persuade people not only to eliminate the word from their vocabulary, but to advocate for students with disabilities

**Introduction Paragraph:**

**Hook**: 1 – 3 sentences used to capture the reader’s interest in the essay. Use an “imagine statement” or heartbreaking statistic, brief story or quote.

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**Bridge:** After capturing the reader’s attention, present the necessary background the reader needs to understand the topic. What is this blog about? What is the problem? Who does it impact? What should your reader expect to understand about this topic? Why should your reader care? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Thesis:** The last sentence in your introduction paragraph that states your opinion/feelings about the topic and your reasons of support. It is a one sentence summary of your essay and it should make your position very clear.

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**Main body** (there is no set number of paragraphs,

so you must decide how to break up your article into logical paragraphs)

**Things that you should definitely include in your blog:**

* History of the “r-word” and its origins
* Stories about people you know with disabilities (either people you know or that you’ve read about). *Use their first names only*!
* Times when you have heard someone use the “r-word”
* Ideas about why people may think it’s ok to use the word
* Several reasons why it is NOT ok to use the word
* Ideas about how to change people’s vocabulary
* Anything else you can use to persuade your reader to eliminate the “r-word” and treat it as hate speech

Brainstorm your list of relevant text evidence that you want to include in your blog here. Remember, you need a minimum of **7 pieces of evidence from the videos, articles, class discussion/notes, or other websites you’ve used for research**. You can use direct quotes OR paraphrase.

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**where did this piece of evidence come from: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**How will you group these pieces of evidence along with your own ideas?** You can use a graphic organizer or web to help you group your ideas and thoughts into paragraphs. Similar text evidence can be grouped into a paragraph together with your thoughts and reflections.

**Conclusion**

An end quote (from an article/video/other source) is a good way to sum things up. That doesn’t always work. Find something that sums the article up in a few words.

Leave your reader thinking about what they say, and the impact that words have. They should finish reading your blog convinced that they will never use the “r-word” again.

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**Bonus:** After you finish your writing, feel free to work alone or collaborate with others to make a short PSA video that “spreads the word to end the word”. The only rules are that it must be respectful and be under 45 seconds. Get creative!