THESIS AND ARGUMENT DEVELOPMENT
Instructor: Pamela Bedore

1. Brief Description of in-class writing exercise:
See ATTACHED.

2. Context for the exercise:
Early in the semester, after defining thesis and evidence, and after we brainstorm evidence for a thesis that I provide. The evidence is taken from an essay that we read a week later.

3. Goal(s) of the exercise:
Thesis development

4. Common results of the exercise:
Some students come up with great theses, others find this extremely tough. After some individual time, I put students into small groups to come up with one thesis and outline, and then we discuss as a class.

5. Student responses to the exercise:
They love it, even those who have a hard time. They often request a new list of evidence to do this as a redraft in-class writing exercise
Tfnological Futures:
Reading and Writing Discourses of Science and Technology

In-Class Writing 6: Thesis and Argument Development

You are working for BigTechCompany, under a team leader who doesn't always give you very much direction. This team leader has noticed that you are quite a good writer, and often asks you to prepare memos and other written work.

Today your team leader has given you a particularly strange assignment. She has provided you with four claims that, for the purpose of this assignment, you must accept as true. You know better than to argue about minor details when presented with work like this. It is suggested that you think about these claims and consider ways in which they may fit together. Your assignment is to come up with a thesis statement which explains these facts, and to outline an argument paper which uses these claims as evidence. You are welcome to supplement these claims with your own in order to produce a coherent argument.

The claims are:

- There was a great surge in creativity in China in about 500 B.C.
- In 1825, U.S. President Franklin Pierce and acclaimed American novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne graduated from the same high school class.
- There was a great surge in technology around the world in about 500 B.C.
- Between 510 and 420 B.C., Athens produced the highest concentration of human achievement in history.

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