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**Evidence 1: (from video)**

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**Evidence 2: (from article)**

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\*Make sure on your essay you use quotation marks or paraphrase.

Example: The article Christmas in the Dominican Republic states, “…..”

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|  | **Excellent****25points** | **Good****20 points** | **Needs Improvement** **15 points** | **Poor****10 points** |
| **Introduction** | The introduction is inviting, states the main topic and a clear claim. | The introduction clearly states the main topic, claim and previews the structure of the paper, but is not particularly inviting to the reader. | The introduction states the main topic and claim, but does not adequately preview the structure of the paper nor is it particularly inviting to the reader. | There is no clear introduction of the main topic, claim or structure of the paper. |
| **Body 1****Based on video** | There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information. | Main idea is clear but the supporting information is general. | Main idea is somewhat clear but there is a need for more supporting information. | The main idea is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information. |
| **Body 2****Based on article** | There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information. | Main idea is clear but the supporting information is general. | Main idea is somewhat clear but there is a need for more supporting information. | The main idea is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information. |
| **Conclusion** | The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader with a feeling that they understand what the writer is "getting at." | The conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all the loose ends. | The conclusion is recognizable, but does not tie up several loose ends. | There is no clear conclusion, the paper just ends. |

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Profe Soto Español 2

**Christmas in the Dominican Republic**

by María Pinzón

The Dominican Republic is located in the Caribbean. It shares the island of La Hispaniola with Haiti. The climate is tropical and, therefore, there aren't any seasonal changes.

There is a great contrast between the two countries that share the island. While Haitians' official language is French, the Dominican Republic speaks Spanish.

Christmas is a very important event in the Dominican Republic, where the population is mostly Catholic. Celebrations start early in December when all the stores stock up with items in every price range.

Every public employee receives a "doble sueldo," a Christmas bonus, amounting to one month's salary. Most businesses also follow the custom of "doble sueldo."

There are two popular shopping areas, namely La Calle del Conde and La Avenida Mella. La Calle del Conde caters to customers from all economic levels while La Avenida Mella caters to the lower income group.

La Calle del Conde is a narrow street with only one lane of cars. The sidewalks are narrow and become even less accessible when street vendors set their merchandise out on them.

You can walk La Calle del Conde, which is approximately ten blocks long, without ever getting tired. While you are trying to get through the crowds you can delight yourself with different music which emerges from the record stores onto the street.

During your walk through La Calle del Conde, street vendors will follow you trying to sell their merchandise which ranges from plastic dolls which jump at the press of a button to real live pets. You can leave the crowd by entering one of the stores where the air conditioner chills you and where the sales people are so courteous that you just don't want to step out again into the crowd and the heat.

By six o'clock on December 24, if you have not finished your purchases you are out of luck, because everything is closed. People have gone home to prepare for supper.

Christmas dinner consist of different plates which can range from pork on the grill, ham or sancocho. Sancocho is a popular dish among all income groups; it contains plantains, meat and vegetables all made into a soup. This delicious dinner is shared with the family and close friends.

While at dinner, you may be surprised to hear in your front yard a group playing "aguinaldos," songs popularly played during the Christmas season. It is customary to tip the music players thus encouraging them to play more before they move to the next house.

Nearing 12 Midnight the party starts to break up, for some will go to "La Misa del Gallo" (Midnight mass) and some will decide to stay talking and drinking until dawn. Mass on Christmas Day is normally held only at 12 noon to allow those who didn't go to La Misa del Gallo to still come to mass.

On Christmas Day some people will exchange some gifts, but it has been the old custom to wait until "El día de Reyes" (The Three Kings' Day), on January 6th.

Because of American influence from the frequent travels between the two countries, the old custom has been slowly disappearing, meaning that the gifts are often exchanged both times, on December 25th and January the 6th.

On January 5th, at 7 p.m. the Three Kings go on parade. Children from all over are anxiously awaiting to see the Three Kings pass in front of them. You can hear the children scream asking for last-minute items they forgot to include on their list of gifts.

After the Three Kings pass on their camels every child rushes home to bed, but before they put their head on the pillow, they place some water and grass under the Christmas tree for the camels.

The next day, January 6th, every child wakes up happy and spends most of the day playing with his/her new toys. On January 7th, everyone returns to school.

**Assignment: Based on this article and the video “Las Posadas: Christmas in Mexico” make a claim about the Christmas celebrations in Spanish speaking countries. Make sure you provide evidence from both sources and explain it.**

**Requirements:**

I. Introduction: Make your claim!

II. Use evidence from the video and explain it.

III. Use evidence from the article and explain it.

IV. Conclusion: Re-state your claim and give it a personal touch. (E.g.: State how it differs or compares to your own holiday celebrations/traditions.)

**Essay due: Tuesday December 23rd 2014.**

*\*Feel free to email your essay at* *soto@whsad.org*