**AP English Language and Composition**

**Q3 Argumentation Prompt**

*Eileen Bach, Concordia International School Shanghai, March 2013*

Imagine that the Shanghai Museum is preparing to share its treasures in a traveling exhibition that will cover three weeks at each of these major sites:

* The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, USA
* The British Museum in London, England
* The Louvre in Paris, France
* The Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia
* The Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy

**Based on your favorite objects found in the Shanghai Museum, determine a theme for the exhibition and select three objects to anchor the show**, keeping the broad audience in mind. For example, consider these possible themes:

* Highlights from the Qing Dynasty
* Celadon Pottery: The Zenith of Chinese Ceramics
* Teapots as Cultural Emblems of China
* Dragon Imagery in Chinese Art
* Chinese Calligraphy: Blending Art and Scholarship
* The *Feng Shui* of Chinese Furniture
* Jade Treasures of Ancient China
* Chinese Seals: A Measure of Pride and Place

This essay must be grounded in your theme. This will require research; include an annotated bibliography, citing a minimum of three sources. You must link each of three objects chosen to the theme you have composed. Include a photograph of each object and use MLA citations for each, indicating the gallery and other identifying information in a caption for each object.

Each AP English Language class will read a full set of essays from a *different* class and **select the most convincing argument for the focus of a traveling exhibition**, one from each class, for a total of three essays to be submitted to the curators at the Shanghai Museum for their consideration.

**DATES:**

Field trip . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Theme and three objects selected . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ *(day after the field trip)* \_\_\_\_

Annotated bibliography . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Final paper . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**BONUS:**

*The magnolia is the official emblem of the city of Shanghai, and as such, you will find many examples around the city, from public sculptures, to a motif for fences, to raised images on drain covers. Snap a photo of any that you find to add three bonus points to your score for this essay ☺*