Argument
Writing About "Hills Brothers Coffee"

Name: _____ **Period:** _____

At this point in the work, you have read and reread "Hills Brothers Coffee." You have studied a few of the poetic devices Tapahonso used to make the poem and you have studied the characters she created. In this task, you will have an opportunity to think, talk, and write about what you think is the most important moment in the poem. This is a familiar assignment. You completed this same work with a few of the poems you studied by Martín Espada. Here's the task:

Reread "Hills Brothers Coffee." As you read the poem, look for and mark lines that seem important. After you have done this, go back and read the poem again. This time, read it with an eye on identifying what you think is the most significant line or two in the poem—that moment in the poem that gives you the greatest insight into what Tapahonso is writing about.

Write a one-page argument in which you tell which line you believe is most important to the poem and explain why you think this line (or two) is so significant. Be sure to write the line you chose somewhere in your essay.

Use your "Checklist for Interpretive/Argument Writing" to help you remember everything you must include in your writing, and be sure to consult any notes you've taken or class charts you've helped create during discussions.

When you finish writing, make sure your argument includes

1. A claim that answers the question;
2. Support for the claim with evidence from the text;
3. Clear explanations that show how that evidence supports your claim; and
4. Commentary on potential counterclaims or alternate positions.

Citing Evidence

When you refer to a specific line or moment from our unit texts, make sure you quote it accurately and tell what page and line number the quotation or moment is from. Here's an example of a sentence in which a line from the text is quoted:

> After taking a sip, the uncle in Tapahonso's poem says, "Ah-h, that's the one that does it for me" (page 14, line 26).

Please notice three things about this example:

1. There are double quotation marks around the part that Tapahonso wrote.
2. The quotation is copied exactly as Tapahonso wrote it.
3. The page and line number the quotation comes from is placed in parentheses after the last double quotation marks but before the period.

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[Start task below]

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