**Subject area/course**: English/Language Arts

**Grade level/band**: 10

**Task source**: Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity (SCALE); Inquiry by Design

**The DREAM Act and College Access**

**STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Task context**:

You have been introduced to the correct way to formulate an academic argument. For this task, you will be given a summary of the Federal DREAM Act, which you will be asked to summarize and evaluate. This task will be a reading assessment. You will be given an article arguing for the DREAM Act and one arguing against it. You will formulate your own argument and write a piece in which you advise the state legislature on whether or not the act should be adopted by your state.

1. **Final product**:

Reading Task Instructions

Read the summary of the Federal DREAM Act (Item B) carefully. Use the notes column to plan your response. Then write a short (about 250 word) response in which you:

* Summarize:
  + What does a young person have to do in order to qualify for the benefits of the DREAM Act? (Cite specific points from the text.)
  + What does a young person get if s/he meets the requirements?
* Evaluate the DREAM Act:
  + Some critics of this version of the DREAM Act argue that it sets unreasonable expectations for undocumented students. In your view, how balanced and fair are the expectations and rewards in the DREAM Act? (Cite specific points to support your position.)

Writing Task Instructions

You have read about the debate over the federal DREAM Act. The state legislature is drafting its own version of the DREAM Act, so now it is time for you to enter the debate.

Write a multi-paragraph essay (about 500 words) in which you advise the legislature on whether they should pass a version of the DREAM Act.

No matter what position you take, it is important to:

* Introduce the issue and its importance
* State your position: Should the legislature pass a version of the DREAM Act?
  + If so, why? What should undocumented young people be asked to do? What rights and opportunities should they be earning?
  + If not, why not? What is unfair or wrong with the legislation?
* Back up your position with clear claims and evidence.
* Consider why people might disagree with you (make counterclaims) and defend your position against their objections.
* Conclude by summarizing your position and what actions should be taken.

**Additional Information**

1. **Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:**

* Read, annotate, and summarize an article
* State and support a position with relevant evidence, considering evidence both for and against your own position
* Demonstrate reading comprehension of a text by responding to a prompt
* Organize an essay to present a logical argument
* Use the writing process

1. **Materials needed:**

* Item A. Text 1 and Graphic Organizer
* Item B. Text 2: Summary of the Federal DREAM Act
* Item C. Text 3
* Item D. Text 4
* Item E. Graphic Organizer 2
* Item F. Argument Checklist

1. **Time requirements:**

This task will take approximately one week to complete. Your teacher will provide details regarding a timeline and due dates.

1. **Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the Reading Information/Writing Argument: Analytic Rubric (9-10). You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.