**7.02 Mushrooms are organic… aren’t they? Persuasion Paper**

**Background**

Anything that is or once was living is organic. The question is whether something like corn, tomatoes, or mushrooms were grown organically or conventionally. Certified organic cultivation standards prohibits the use of any synthetic fertilizers or pesticides (chemicals used to combat weeds, diseases, insects and other problems). Conventional growers are allowed to use these items under the regulation of the United States government. A conventional grower, when applying fertilizers or pesticides, must follow the regulations and rules that are determined for application rates and uses (as posted on the label- a legal document). Failure to comply with this, as mandated by the EPA, can result in heavy fines and even jail time.

Mushroom growers grow an organic product. A mushroom is a living organism, and thus organic. The way that it is cultivated, however, can be organically or conventionally produced. Organic mushrooms are significantly more expensive to produce and therefore to purchase them, you must use more of the money in your wallet.

**Assignment**

Is using your hard earned cash for an organically produced fruit or vegetable worth it?

You will research, using three articles whether you feel that you should purchase organically produced mushrooms. Over the course of the year, if you purchase a weekly container of mushrooms you will spend on average two dollars more. Thus, if you buy organically grown mushrooms for just 50 weeks of the year, you will spend an extra $100 annually on organic mushrooms. Is it worth it? Remember, you could spend that $100 on something else like prom tickets, shoes, or college savings.

Argue for or against (persuasion) whether you will purchase organic mushrooms this year. Use at least three pieces of evidence from the articles in your justification. Write at least five paragraphs about your decision and persuade the audience as to why this is the best decision for you in regards to purchasing organic or conventionally grown mushrooms.

Use the Read Write Think Persuasion Paper Rubric provided. Use this guide before, during and after your writing to make sure that you are on track for a great persuasion paper.