**Mrs. D’Amico’s Response Example**

**U.S. Election 2016: Trump and Clinton**

The general argument made by The Associate Press in the article, *Clinton and Trump Battle in their first presidential debate*, is that the two presidential candidates, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, argued over their differing political views, leading to a tense debate. More specifically, the author argues that Clinton and Trump continually criticized one another based on political views and personal concerns. The author writes, “Clinton criticized businessman Donald Trump for keeping his personal and business financial documents a secret from voters...Meanwhile, Trump repeatedly tried to label Clinton as a ‘typical politician. (Associated Press 2)’” In this quote, the author is suggesting that both candidates used the debate to question the character of their opponents. The author believes that both parties must use these political tactics to win over the voters they need to win the election.

In my opinion, the author of this article is correct that both parties are trying to make the other look bad in order to win voters because although they addressed some of the key issues facing the United States in their debate, they both went back to simply pointing out the other candidates flaws. I believe that these candidates should be spending less time highlighting each other’s secrets and shortcomings and focus on clarifying their plans for making the country a stronger and safer place. For example when discussing immigration, both parties claim to have a plan for addressing concerns with facing the Islamic State, but have not released any clear details of their plans. The author may say that these candidates are trying to use the debate as a way to force their opponent to address their mistakes, but I maintain that they would be more successful in winning over voters if they were straightforward with their plan and vision for the United States. Therefore, I have found that Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump should both reconsider their approach to the election in order to gain success.