Task 4: Focus on Strong Evidence and Counterclaim

Standards
W.7.1.a: Introduce claim(s), acknowledge opposing claims and rebuttal, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
W.7.1.b: Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
W.7.1.c: Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence.

Task Description
1. Read and annotate the articles:
   a. “Copenhagen Zoo Kills a Giraffe, U.S. Zoos Say They Don't Do That”
   b. “Copenhagen Zoo’s Scientific Director Defends Killing Giraffe”
2. Create an argument essay based on the prompt.
   a. Did the zoo make the right decision in euthanizing the giraffe or not? Support your claim with evidence from the text.
3. Your essay should include a claim, three pieces of evidence to support the claim, and a counter-claim.
4. Use elaboration techniques (examples, facts, quotes, sensory details, etc.) to strengthen your argument.
5. You should also have an introductory statement or paragraph, and a concluding statement or paragraph.
6. Make sure to use transitions to connect your ideas.

Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Proficient – 3 (Can repeat on their own)</th>
<th>Developing – 2 (Can improve with minimal support)</th>
<th>Novice – 1 (Requires teacher guidance)</th>
<th>Not Present – 0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Introduce Claim</td>
<td>Claim is clearly stated and argumentative</td>
<td>Claim is clear and concise but is not argumentative</td>
<td>Claim is confusing or ambiguous</td>
<td>There is no claim statement</td>
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<td>2. Supports claim with evidence</td>
<td>Selects strong, accurate, and relevant evidence</td>
<td>Most evidence is accurate and relevant but could be stronger</td>
<td>Provides little evidence or evidence is not accurate</td>
<td>There is no evidence provided</td>
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<td>3. Opposing View</td>
<td>Opposing argument and rebuttal are clear</td>
<td>Opposing argument and rebuttal are adequate</td>
<td>Opposing argument and rebuttal are confusing</td>
<td>Opposing argument and rebuttal are missing</td>
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<td>4. Elaboration</td>
<td>Effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques</td>
<td>Adequate use of some elaboration techniques. May have some weak or uneven use of techniques</td>
<td>Minimal use of elaborative techniques</td>
<td>No use of elaboration techniques</td>
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