

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write an Argument Essay

Directions: Read "Should You Clone Your Pet?" Complete the essay kit on page 29.
Then follow the steps below.

STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

Do you think it is OK to clone a pet?

Consider what you read in the article, as well as your own viewpoints.
Check the box next to the point of view you will argue in your essay.
Or write your own opinion in the space provided.

Yes! Where do I sign up?

No! It's totally twisted.

STEP 2: GATHER SUPPORT FOR YOUR OPINION

Look at what you wrote in the "Yes" and "No" columns on page 29. Which points support your opinion?
What other information supports your opinion? List at least three supporting details on the lines below.

Here's an example: If you think it is OK to clone a pet, one of your supporting details might be:
"Scientists have been cloning animals for years."

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

If you DO think pet cloning is OK, summarize the strongest arguments of those who disagree.
If you DO NOT think pet cloning is OK, summarize the main reasons some people think it is a good idea.

STEP 4: CRAFT YOUR THESIS (CENTRAL CLAIM)

The thesis is where you tell readers what your essay is going to be about. The thesis should be a clear, strong statement of the opinion you gave in Step 1. The rest of your essay will support this thesis.

Your thesis: _____

STEP 5: WRITE YOUR HOOK

The very beginning of your essay is called the hook because it "hooks" your readers' attention. The hook should relate to the topic of your essay, but it can take many forms. It can be:

- 1. An anecdote** (a very short story): Describe an experience with your own pet or another pet you've known. Describe what it might be like to clone that particular animal.
- 2. A surprising fact:** Find a fact that will raise your readers' eyebrows. Several surprising facts are included in the article. You can also do some research to find one that is not included in the article.
- 3. A rhetorical question** (a question to which you don't expect an answer): Ask your readers a question that reflects your point of view about pet cloning. Here's one way you could structure your question: "*Should we really risk ___ to ___?*"
- 4. A quote:** Find a thought-provoking quote that relates to the topic of your essay.

Choose one of the ideas above, or use your own idea, and write a hook on the lines provided.

Your hook: _____

STEP 6: SUMMARIZE THE ISSUE

Let readers know a little about the issue you will be writing about. This is not your point of view; it's a brief summary of the issue. Finish the summary of the issue of pet cloning on the lines below.

People have different points of view on pet cloning. One point of view is that _____

STEP 7: START WRITING

On the next page, you'll find guidelines for how to organize your essay.

Argument Essay Outline

Directions: Use the outline below to write your essay. You will use what you wrote on the first three pages of this activity.

1 INTRODUCTION

Open with your hook from Step 5.



Write a transition sentence that relates your hook to the question of whether pet cloning is OK.
(See *Scope's* handout "Great Transitions" for some ways to link your ideas.)



Write your summary of the issue from Step 6.



Finish with your thesis from Step 4.

2 BODY PARAGRAPH(S)

**Now write your supporting points from Step 2.
For each one, write 1-3 sentences that
provide additional details.**

You can put your supporting points and detail sentences together in one paragraph or you can split them into several paragraphs. It depends on how much you want to write about each point.

Hint! Order your supporting points from weakest to strongest. Readers will remember details that are presented last.

3 ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

Now it's time to recognize the other side of the argument.

Use what you wrote in Step 3.
Then explain why you think the opposing point of view is wrong.

4 CONCLUSION

**Write 2-3 sentences to remind your readers
of your main points.**

Finish with a strong final sentence.

*Need an idea?
Refer to your hook,
find a quote, or give
a call to action.*

5 READ AND REVISE

Use *Scope's* "Argument-Essay Checklist" to evaluate and edit what you have written.