

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write an Argument Essay

Directions: Follow the steps below to write an argument essay.

STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

On the lines below, write a sentence expressing the point of view you will argue in your essay.

STEP 2: FIND YOUR SUPPORT

Identify evidence from the article or story that supports your opinion. List at least three supporting details.

STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

On the lines below, summarize the strongest arguments of those who disagree with you on the issue.

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 an anecdote (a very short story), a fact, a quote, or a rhetorical question (a question to which you don’t expect an answer). **Choose one of the ideas below, or use your own idea, and write a hook on the lines provided (1-3 sentences).**

1. **ANECDOTE:** Describe a personal experience you’ve had that has to do with the issue that you are writing about.
2. **SURPRISING FACT:** Find a fact that will raise your readers’ eyebrows. You can do some research to find one that is not included in the article or story.
3. **RHETORICAL QUESTION:** Ask your readers a question that reflects your point of view about the issue.

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 very brief summary of the issue.

Your summary of the issue: _____

STEP 7: START WRITING

Now that you have the key ingredients for your essay, you are ready to start writing. On the next page, you’ll find guidelines for how to organize your ingredients, as well as hints about what else you’ll need to add.

Directions: Follow the guidelines below to write a strong essay, using what you wrote on the first two pages of this activity.

INTRODUCTION

Open with your hook from Step 5.



Write a transition sentence that relates your hook to the issue you are writing about. (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.

BODY PARAGRAPH(S)

Here's where you 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. Order your supporting points from weakest to strongest. Readers tend to remember best the details that are presented last.

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.

CONCLUSION

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



Finish with a strong final sentence. Looking for an idea? Try referring to your hook, finding a quote, or inspiring your readers.

READ AND REVISE

Use *Scope's* "Argument-Essay Checklist" to evaluate and edit what you have written. Make any necessary changes and write a second draft.