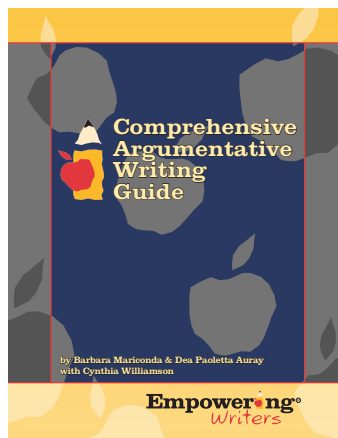




Comprehensive Argumentative Writing Guide Student Pages for Print or Projection

SECTION 1: Organization and Analysis



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Student Reference Sheet

Name _____

Expository/Informative or Persuasive or Argument?

Expository/Informative, persuasive, and argument writing are similar in many ways. All three types of writing are organized with an introduction paragraph, several paragraphs in the body of the piece, each focusing on a single main idea, or reason, and a conclusion that creatively restates what the entire piece is about.

The difference between expository/informative writing, persuasive, and argument writing is in the *author's purpose*.

IN EXPOSITORY/INFORMATIVE WRITING,
THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE IS TO **INFORM** THE
AUDIENCE.

IN PERSUASIVE WRITING, THE AUTHOR'S
PURPOSE IS TO **PERSUADE** OR CONVINCE THE
AUDIENCE TO THINK AS THE AUTHOR THINKS.

IN ARGUMENT WRITING, THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE
IS TO OFFER **HIS/HER POINT OF VIEW** IN A
WAY THAT THE READER WILL ACKNOWLEDGE
AS VALID AND WORTH CONSIDERATION.

In all of these genres, the author presents facts. In persuasive writing, the author must present the facts in a way that helps convince the audience of something. The author of a persuasive piece usually groups facts to build a case or an argument. The author may selectively use emotion and choose the facts in order to strengthen his/her view or slant or spin the facts in order to better support his/her position.

In argument writing, the author supports a claim (opinion, conclusion) about an issue with relevant reasons, facts and supporting evidence so that the reader's opinion might be changed or at least might accept that the author's is a position worth evaluating. The author is not as concerned about convincing the reader to change his/her mind as he/she is about putting their claim out there for consideration.

Name _____

The Elephant

Meet the elephant - the largest land mammal living on the earth today. These amazing giants of the animal kingdom have a commanding appearance, inhabit a limited number of areas in the modern world, and demonstrate many fascinating behaviors. Let's get to know the elephant up close and personal.

Once you've seen an elephant you'll never forget the sight. These mammoth creatures stand between 10 - 13 feet tall. Some elephants have ivory tusks, which are actually oversized teeth that can measure up to 10 feet long. These massive four-legged beasts are also characterized by large floppy ears, a wispy tail, and a muscular, flexible trunk. Their trunks have an almost finger-like muscle on the ends for use in picking up objects, especially food. The pachyderm's (another word for elephant) thick grayish brown, leathery hide appears wrinkly, and is covered in sparse, yet coarse hair.

Elephants are not found in many places world-wide. Unlike their prehistoric ancestor, the woolly mammoth, which was found everywhere except Australia and Antarctica, the elephant is now found only in India, Southeast Asia, and Africa. You can find elephants south of the Sahara Desert. They can still thrive in jungles, in grasslands called savannas, and in the areas surrounding rivers. It is important that elephants have a huge supply of grass, leaves, and other vegetation in order not to starve - almost 500 pounds of food a day. Therefore, the habitat and the range of the elephant is limited to environments in which these conditions are found.

If you could spend a day with an elephant in the wild, you'd be amazed at their many interesting behaviors. They use their trunks as tools to pluck fruit, grass, and leaves and stuff them into their mouths. They also use their trunks as a built-in shower hose for bathing, and a blower for raising up sand and dust for the equivalent of a powdering. Even though elephants are huge, they walk with a gentle, quiet grace. But watch out. If an elephant charges, you'd have over seven tons of pachyderm heading toward you at up to twenty five miles an hour. These amazing creatures are strong swimmers as well. If they're not cooling off in a stream, lake, or river, you might see them on land, using their huge ears as fans.

If you ever visit a major zoo, or even a circus, be sure to be on the lookout for the incredible elephant. Recognizing their awesome appearance, knowing about their limited habitat and range, and understanding their interesting and appealing behavior is well worth it. Without a doubt, elephants are amazing creatures.

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1.) Meet the elephant - the largest land mammal living on the earth today. These amazing giants of the animal kingdom have a commanding appearance, inhabit a limited number of areas in the modern world, and demonstrate many fascinating behaviors. Let's get to know the elephant up close and personal.

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conclusion

Name _____

The Elephant

1.) Number each paragraph. Circle the introduction and box the conclusion.

2.) What is the TOPIC of this piece? _____

3.) Underline each main idea.

4.) Write a blurb in the margin next to paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 that tells what the entire paragraph is about.

5.) Fill in the author's plan:

TOPIC: _____

Main Idea #1 _____

Main Idea #2 _____

Main Idea #3 _____

6.) What did you learn about the elephant in this piece? _____

7.) Did the author try to convince you of anything, or try to get you to change your mind, or to take some kind of action? If so, what? _____

8.) Is there anything in this piece that reads like an argument? _____

9.) Do you think this is an expository/informative, persuasive, or argument piece?

Why? _____

Name _____

Save the Elephant

For as long as people have walked the earth, they have been fascinated with elephants. In fact, as far back as the Paleolithic period, early cave-dwelling humans were creating cave paintings of the elephant's ancestors, the woolly mammoths. However, in the last hundred years or so, thoughtless human beings have all but eliminated this incredible species. It is our duty to make a huge effort to save the elephant.

The elephant's tusks attract a lot of attention. These large, curved ivory protuberances are actually teeth used for digging, rooting, and self defense. They are also the main cause of the animal's endangered status. Hunters heartlessly slaughter them and savagely carve out the tusks. Ivory is a much sought after material for jewelry and carvings. Bracelets, sculptures, earrings, even furniture has been crafted out of ivory. Others mistakenly believe that the tusks can be ground into a powder and used as a medicine. It's time for compassionate people who care about these creatures to boycott the selling of ivory, and to refuse to purchase jewelry or other products made out of the tusks of elephants. We also must educate others world-wide about the fact that elephants will become extinct if this kind of greedy hunting and marketing of ivory continues.

Another danger to the elephant is farming and logging. When short-sighted people cut down all of the trees in a jungle or tropical forest, they gain in the short term by earning money from the resources there, but the environment is ruined. The main source of the elephant's diet is eliminated; in essence, we are starving them! Likewise, when savannas are converted into farms and fields for grazing cattle, elephants are forced into new territories. Here, elephants strip the land of its resources - they can eat up to 500 pounds of vegetation in a single day. By ruining this massive creature's habitat, it must, in turn, ruin an alternate habitat. This vicious cycle of destruction will eventually leave the earth a barren place. We must insist that these few remaining rich habitats for the elephant are preserved at all cost, because once they are gone, it is too late.

Name _____

Most of us have enjoyed a trip to the zoo or to the circus where we have seen an elephant performing or simply on display. But, shouldn't we think beyond our own entertainment, and consider the elephant? The animal is snatched from the wild, taken from its mother, ripped from its habitat and forced into an unnatural situation. In zoos and circuses, elephants do not usually breed, so the population decreases. In order to provide elephants for audiences, they are often corralled in the wild as calves, and begin harsh training immediately. In India and Asia, these unfortunate beasts are trained for logging and other forms of hard labor. Before spending a single dollar to support zoos and circuses, we should consider what it means to the elephant population. Boycotting these events sends a powerful message to those in charge about the fairness, wisdom, and morality of using endangered animals in this way.

It is easy to pretend that elephants are alive and well and that someone else is watching out for the future of the species. But, that someone has to be you and me. Without our help, the elephant will vanish. Our grandchildren may never know this amazing beast. Therefore, it is our responsibility to do everything in our power to save these majestic, awe-inspiring beasts.

Save the Elephant

1.) For as long as people have walked the earth, they have been fascinated with elephants. In fact, as far back as the Paleolithic period, early cave-dwelling humans were creating cave paintings of the elephant's ancestors, the woolly mammoths. However, in the last hundred years or so, thoughtless human beings have all but eliminated this incredible species. It is our duty to make a huge effort to save the elephant.

lead -
amazing
fact

issue
statement

2.) One awesome characteristic of the elephant's appearance are the tusks. These large, curved ivory protuberances are actually teeth used for digging, rooting, and self defense. They are also the main cause of the animal's endangered status. Hunters heartlessly slaughter them and savagely carve out the tusks. Ivory is a much sought after material for jewelry and carvings. Bracelets, sculptures, earrings, even furniture has been crafted out of ivory. Others mistakenly believe that the tusks can be ground into a powder used as a medicine. It's time for compassionate people who care about these creatures to boycott the selling of ivory, and to refuse to purchase jewelry or other products made out of the tusks of elephants. We also must educate others world-wide about the fact that elephants will become extinct if this kind of greedy hunting and marketing of ivory continues.

killing them for
tusks/ivory

emotional/
judgmental
language

3.) Another danger to the elephant is farming and logging. When short-sided people cut down all of the trees in a jungle or tropical forest, they gain in the short term by earning money from the resources there, but the environment is ruined. The main source of the elephant's diet is eliminated; in essence, we are starving them! Likewise, when savannas are converted into farms and fields for grazing cattle, elephants are forced into new territories. Here, elephants strip the land of its resources - they can eat up to 500 pounds of vegetation in a single day. By ruining this massive creature's habitat, it must, in turn, ruin an alternate habitat. This vicious cycle of destruction will eventually leave the earth a barren place. We must insist that these few remaining rich habitats for the elephant are preserved at all cost, because once they are gone, it is too late.

danger of
farming/
logging

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abusing elephants
in captivity

emotional/
judgmental
language

5.) It is easy to pretend that elephants are alive and well and that someone else is watching out for the future of the species. But, that someone has to be you and me. Without our help, the elephant will vanish. Our grandchildren may never know this amazing beast. Therefore, it is our responsibility to do everything in our power to save these majestic, awe-inspiring beasts. *call to action*

conclusion

Name _____

Save the Elephant

1.) Number each paragraph. Circle the introduction and box the conclusion.

2.) What is the ISSUE of this piece? _____

3.) What is the author's call to action?

4.) Underline each main reason.

5.) Write a blurb in the margin next to paragraphs 2, 3, and 4, that tells what the entire paragraph is about

6.) Fill in the author's plan:

ISSUE: _____

CLAIM: _____

Main Reason #1 _____

Main Reason #2 _____

Main Reason #3 _____

7.) What did you learn about the elephant in this piece? _____

8.) Did the author try to convince you of anything? If so, what?

9.) Circle any emotional or judgmental language.

10.) Do you think this is an expository/informative, persuasive, or argument piece?

Why? _____

Name _____

The Vulnerable Elephant

For as long as people have walked the earth, they have been fascinated with elephants. In fact, as far back as the Paleolithic period, early cave-dwelling humans were creating cave paintings of the elephant's ancestors, the woolly mammoths. However, in 1970 there were an estimated 1.4 million African elephants. Today we have only 400,000. In this essay, I will argue that elephants deserve to be safe and remain in their natural environment.

It is important to think about the elephant's tusks. These large, curved ivory protuberances are actually teeth and are used for digging, rooting, and self defense. They are also the main cause of the animal's endangered status. For years, ivory has been extracted from the tusks and used for jewelry, sculptures and even furniture. Some people may think that production of these products are a valid reason for killing the elephant; however, wouldn't it make more sense to get the ivory people need from another source? One substitute would be vegetable ivory from the palm tree in the rainforest. This ivory has a creamy color and is just as hard as the ivory from tusks. In addition, this particular seed can be harvested without cutting down trees or harming any wildlife. This alternative would not only be saving the elephants from extinction but would also provide jobs and protect the environment.

Another danger to the elephant is farming and logging. When people cut down all of the trees in a jungle or tropical forest, they gain in the short term by earning money from the resources there, but the environment is ruined. The main source of the elephant's diet is eliminated. I can understand the fact that money is needed from the resources in the rainforest; however, experts agree that by harvesting the nuts, fruits, medicinal and oil-producing plants, the rainforest will have more economic value than cutting down the trees. According to Save the Rainforest, the latest statistics show that "rainforest land converted to cattle operations yields the landowner \$60 per acre, and if timber is harvested, the land is worth \$400 per acre. However, if these renewable

Name _____

and sustainable resources are harvested, the land will yield the owner \$2,400 per acre.” Purchasing these sustainable resources will bring a positive change to the local economy, provide products for the public to buy for many years, and help keep the elephant’s territory safe and sound.

Most of us have enjoyed a trip to the zoo where we have seen the elephants on display. In order for us to observe this fascinating animal, the elephant is removed from its natural habitat and placed into an unnatural situation. While many people enjoy visiting the zoo and getting up close and personal with this majestic creature, we must realize that their natural behaviors and ability to reproduce are affected in captivity. Some zoos do provide quality living space and medical care, but according to the website of the group In Defense of Animals, seven elephants housed in zoos in the US died of unnatural causes in 2007 alone. These deaths resulted from diseases and problems with arthritis and joint pain caused by small living quarters. Keeping elephants in captivity contributes to the decrease in population. If we consider putting the elephant before our pleasure and entertainment, we may realize the value of keeping them in their natural environment.

Considering the evidence, the conclusion must be that the elephants deserve the right to remain in their natural habitat where they are free to reproduce and live out their natural life. Investigating alternatives for products and land sought by eliminating elephant habitats will not only help keep these creatures safe for many years to come, but will grow our own economy in the process. Careful consideration in regard to keeping elephants in captivity will help reduce the illnesses and deaths that can occur. These efforts to save this majestic creature are certainly worthwhile.

The Vulnerable Elephant

*introduction**lead -
amazing
fact,
statistic*

1.) For as long as people have walked the earth, they have been fascinated with elephants. In fact, as far back as the Paleolithic period, early cave-dwelling humans were creating cave paintings of the elephant's ancestors, the woolly mammoths.

However, in 1970 there were an estimated 1.4 million African elephants. Today we have only 400,000. In this essay, I will argue that elephants deserve to be safe and remain in their natural environment. *issue statement/claim*

2.) It is important to think about the elephant's tusks. These large, curved ivory protuberances are actually teeth and are used for digging, rooting, and self defense.

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Some people may think that production of these products are a valid reason for killing the elephant; however, *acknowledging opposing view*

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3.) Another danger to the elephant is farming and logging. When people cut down all of the trees in a jungle or tropical forest, they gain in the short term by earning money from the resources there, but the environment is ruined. The main source of the elephant's diet is eliminated. *farming/logging*

I can understand the fact that money is needed from the resources in the rainforest; however, *acknowledging opposing view*

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statistical evidence

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logical, sound reasoning

4.) Most of us have enjoyed a trip to the zoo where we have seen the elephants on display. In order for us to observe this fascinating animal, the elephant is removed from its natural habitat and placed into an unnatural situation. While many people enjoy visiting the zoo and getting up close and personal with this majestic creature,

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zoos

evidence statistics

5.) Considering the evidence, the conclusion must be that the elephants deserve the right to remain in their natural habitat where they are free to reproduce and live out their natural life. Investigating alternatives for products and land sought by eliminating elephant habitats will not only help keep these creatures safe for many years to come, but will grow our own economy in the process. Careful consideration in regard to keeping elephants in captivity will help reduce the illnesses and deaths that can occur. These efforts to save this majestic creature are certainly worthwhile.

conclusion

Name _____

The Vulnerable Elephant

1.) Number each paragraph. Circle the introduction and box the conclusion.

2.) What is the ISSUE of this piece? _____

3.) What is the author's claim? _____

4.) Underline each main reason.

5.) Write a blurb in the margin next to paragraphs 2, 3, and 4, that tells what the entire paragraph is about.

6.) Fill in the author's plan:

ISSUE: _____

CLAIM: _____

Main Reason #1 _____

Main Reason #2 _____

Main Reason #3 _____

7.) What did you learn about the elephant in this piece? _____

8.) What did the author try to convince you of by offering sound reasons and logic for their view?

9.) Do you think this is an expository/informative, persuasive or argument piece?

Why? _____

Name _____

Music in School

Music has many benefits for people. It can stir up deep emotions; it can make you want to dance. Doctors report that it can even lower your blood pressure. Babies who listen to Mozart are said to learn faster than babies who don't. There are many terrific opportunities to participate in music in school - through orchestra, band, and choir.

In third grade some students begin the orchestra program. They learn how to play stringed instruments such as the violin, viola, and cello. Everyone gets an instrument, a case, and a bow. They learn the names of the strings and how to hold the instrument. The first time you draw the bow across the string, watch out! You'll be in for a screech, that's for sure. But with practice you'll learn how to glide the bow along, producing a lovely tone. Playing a stringed instrument in the orchestra helps you to read notes, hear pitches, and to play many famous pieces of music! Did you know that Bach wrote music for string orchestra? It isn't long before the school orchestra is tackling the tunes of Bach and Beethoven.

By fourth grade students can participate in band. Here they begin learning the wind instruments - the shiny brass family including trumpet and trombone - and the fascinating woodwinds like the flute and clarinet. You can hear the bright, flashy sounds of the horns and the reedy sound of the clarinets and oboes all through the school on band days. Of course, it's impossible to forget about the percussion instruments. The rat-tat-tat of the snare drum or the boom of the bass drum can be heard keeping the entire band in time. The sound of a march coming from the band room makes the entire school population want to tap their feet in time.

The choir provides a wonderful opportunity to get together with friends and sing your heart out. But, it's a lot more than just a sing-along. Choir members learn vocal technique. Not only do they learn how to read notes and follow a melodic line, but they also learn how to breathe properly in order to produce a beautiful singing tone, and how to avoid straining their voices. Our choral teacher, Miss Johnson says, "When a choir sings, each voice is like one colorful thread in a tapestry. The individual voices are woven together to make a beautiful piece of musical cloth." You can see that choral singing is all about blending voices and cooperating together to make a lovely sound.

Whether you participate in orchestra, band, or choir, one thing is for sure: making music together with others is a worthwhile activity. School music provides a terrific way to work together with others. Being a school musician is not only fun and educational, but making good music for others to enjoy is something of which to be proud. What better way to bring a little harmony to our world!

Music in School

1.) Music has many benefits for people. It can stir up deep emotions; it can make you want to dance. Doctors report that it can even lower your blood pressure. Babies who listen to Mozart are said to learn faster than babies who don't. There are many terrific opportunities to participate in music in school - through orchestra, band, and choir.

2.) In third grade some students begin the orchestra program. They learn how to play stringed instruments such as the violin, viola, and cello. Everyone gets an instrument, a case, and a bow. They learn the names of the strings and how to hold the instrument. The first time you draw the bow across the string, watch out! You'll be in for a screech, that's for sure. But with practice you'll learn how to glide the bow along, producing a lovely tone. Playing a stringed instrument in the orchestra helps you to read notes, hear pitches, and to play many famous pieces of music! Did you know that Bach wrote music for string orchestra? It isn't long before the school orchestra is tackling the tunes of Bach and Beethoven.

3.) By fourth grade students can participate in band. Here they begin learning the wind instruments - the shiny brass family including trumpet and trombone - and the fascinating woodwinds like the flute and clarinet. You can hear the bright, flashy sounds of the horns and the reedy sound of the clarinets and oboes all through the school on band days. Of course, it's impossible to forget about the percussion instruments. The rat-tat-tat of the snare drum or the boom of the bass drum can be heard keeping the entire band in time. The sound of a march coming from the band room makes the entire school population want to tap their feet in time.

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Name _____

Music in School

- 1.) Number each paragraph. Circle the introduction and box the conclusion.
- 2.) What is the TOPIC of this piece? _____
- 3.) Underline each main idea sentence and write a blurb in the margin next to paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 that tells what the entire paragraph is about.
- 4.) Fill in the author's plan:
TOPIC: _____
Main Idea/Argument #1 _____
Main Idea/Argument #2 _____
Main Idea/Argument #3 _____
- 5.) What did you learn about music in schools in this piece? _____
- 6.) Did the author try to convince you of anything, try to get you to change your mind, or to take some kind of action? If so, what? _____

- 7.) Did the author give you information? _____
- 8.) Is there anything in this piece that reads like an argument? _____
- 9.) Do you think this is an expository/informative, persuasive, or argument piece?
Why? _____

Name _____

Music is a Must!

Everyone loves music! It can stir up deep emotions; it can make you want to dance. Doctors report that it can even lower your blood pressure! Babies who listen to Mozart are said to learn faster than babies who don't! So, is there any doubt that music is an important part of the school day? There are many terrific opportunities to participate in music in school - through orchestra, band, and choir. This is an area of the curriculum that every student must experience. Therefore cutting music budgets would be a totally irresponsible and short-sighted decision.

Do you like being a part of a group, the feeling of belonging that comes from doing something exciting and fun with your friends? If the answer is yes, then school band is the place for you to be! Not only will you learn to play an instrument, but you'll march in the parade, and be involved in the half-time show at every football game. Last year the band took a number of fantastic trips. They performed at Disney World and at the Rose Bowl! If you think practicing every day is a drag, think of how motivated you'd be if you knew that in a month or two you'd be on a plane to sunny Florida with about 70 of your best friends to perform for people from all over the world! Of course, while you're having all this fun you'll also learn to play a wind or a percussion instrument. You never know, playing a band instrument could eventually land you a college scholarship, a job with a Broadway show like "Blast," or even a job with the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus! How could anyone consider robbing students of these opportunities?

Orchestra is another awesome musical school activity. There's something exhilarating, mysterious, and exciting about carrying that big black leather case to school, and snapping open the brass clasps to reveal a rich, graceful wooden violin, viola, or cello. You take the instrument out of its velvet lining, tuck it under your chin and draw the bow across the strings. The instrument will sing for you, songs that can tear at your heart, or make your heart race! The orchestra can play pop music, show music, and of course, classical music. Our school orchestra traveled to Vienna and to

Name _____

the orchestra festival in Washington, D.C. A professional violinist came to our school to tell us how she began her career in school orchestra; now she performs with the philharmonic. She's played for recording sessions for people like Celine Dion, and played in the pit orchestra for the musical "Cats." Imagine how her life would have changed if music had been cut from her school? Does anyone really want to thwart a budding musician's potential in this way?

If you sing in the shower, wail with the car radio, or secretly use your hairbrush as a microphone while singing in your room, choir is the place for you! For some, choir is a fun outlet for their secret singing aspirations. For others, it is a place to develop their voices and vocal techniques. Former choir members have gone on to sing in musical theater, rock bands, opera, and even in professional recordings. There is a unique power that comes from the ability to simply open your mouth and allow yourself to become the instrument - an instrument that is always with you, always ready! Choir gives students the tools to conquer karaoke, sit in with the band, or star in the school musical. Singing also provides great experience in building confidence for public speaking and presenting.

Clearly, the many benefits of a school music experience are too numerous to list! Whether in band, orchestra, or choir, music builds responsibility, maturity, a cooperative spirit, and a high level of confidence. Just as sports can build character, so does music. Music provides the added benefit of expanding students' awareness of the arts. I haven't yet met a student who said, "Making music was a waste of time." In order to become well-rounded people, all students should be able to participate in band, orchestra, or choir. Responsible supporters of the arts, and generous, forward thinking citizens who value an arts based education need to push their town governments to fully fund music programs. Sure, tax dollars need to be stretched, but let's not let music in our schools be devastated by cutbacks!

Music is a Must!

1.) Everyone loves music! It can stir up deep emotions; it can make you want to dance. Doctors report that it can even lower your blood pressure! Babies who listen to Mozart are said to learn faster than babies who don't! So, is there any doubt that music is an important part of the school day? There are many terrific opportunities to participate in music in school - through orchestra, band, and choir. This is an area of the curriculum that every student must experience. Therefore cutting music budgets would be a totally irresponsible and short-sighted decision.

2.) Do you like being a part of a group, the feeling of belonging that comes from doing something exciting and fun with your friends? If the answer is yes, then school band is the place for you to be! Not only will you learn to play an instrument, but you'll march in the parade, and be involved in the half-time show at every football game. Last year the band took a number of fantastic trips. They performed at Disney World, and at the Rose Bowl! If you think practicing every day is a drag, think of how motivated you'd be if you knew that in a month or two you'd be on a plane to sunny Florida with about 70 of your best friends to perform for people from all over the world! Of course, while you're having all this fun you'll also learn to play a wind or a percussion instrument. You never know, playing a band instrument could eventually land you a college scholarship, a job with a Broadway show like "Blast," or even a job with the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus! How could anyone consider robbing students of these opportunities?

3.) Orchestra is another awesome musical school activity. There's something exhilarating, mysterious, and exciting about carrying that big black leather case to school, and snapping open the brass clasps to reveal a rich, graceful wooden violin, viola, or cello. You take the instrument out of its velvet lining, tuck it under your chin and draw the bow across the strings. The instrument will sing for you, songs that can tear at your heart, or make your heart race! The orchestra can play pop music, show music, and of course, classical music. Our school orchestra traveled to Vienna and to

the orchestra festival in Washington, D.C. A professional violinist came to our school to tell us how she began her career in school orchestra; now she performs with the philharmonic. She's played for recording sessions for people like Celine Dion, and played in the pit orchestra for the musical "Cats." Imagine how her life would have changed if music had been cut from her school? (Does anyone really want to thwart a budding musician's potential in this way?)

anecdote

rhetorical question - emotional language

4.) If you sing in the shower, wail with the car radio, or secretly use your hairbrush as a microphone while singing in your room, choir is the place for you! For some, choir is a fun outlet for their secret singing aspirations. For others, it is a place to develop their voices and vocal techniques. Former choir members have gone on to sing in musical theater, rock bands, opera, and even in professional recordings. There is a unique power that comes from the ability to simply open your mouth and allow yourself to become the instrument - an instrument that is always with you, always ready! Choir gives students the tools to conquer karaoke, sit in with the band, or star in the school musical. Singing also provides great experience in building confidence for public speaking and presenting.

join the choir

specific examples

5.) Clearly, the many benefits of a school music experience are too numerous to list! Whether in band, orchestra, or choir, music builds responsibility, maturity, a cooperative spirit, and a high level of confidence. Just as sports can build character, so does music. Music provides the added benefit of expanding students' awareness of the arts. I haven't yet met a student who said, "Making music was a waste of time." In order to become well-rounded people, all students should be able to participate in band, orchestra, or choir. Responsible supporters of the arts, and generous, forward thinking citizens who value an arts-based education need to push their town governments to fully fund music programs. Sure, tax dollars need to be stretched, but let's not let music in our schools be devastated by cutbacks!

emotional language

conclusion

Name _____

Music is a Must!

- 1.) Number each paragraph. Circle the introduction and box the conclusion.
- 2.) What is the ISSUE raised in this piece? _____
- 3.) Underline each main argument and write a blurb in the margin next to paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 that tells what the entire paragraph is about.
- 4.) Fill in the author's plan:
TOPIC: _____
Main Idea/Argument #1 _____
Main Idea/Argument #2 _____
Main Idea/Argument #3 _____
- 5.) What did you learn about the music in our schools in this piece? _____
- 6.) Did the author try to convince you of anything, or try to get you to change your mind, or to take some kind of action? If so, what? _____

- 7.) Underline any sentences that express an emotional, one-sided, or judgmental view.
- 8.) Can you list at least three examples of information found in both pieces?

- 9.) Why do you think the author of the second piece included this particular information? _____

- 10.) Do you think this is an expository/informative, persuasive, or argument piece? Why? _____

Name _____

The Benefits of Music in Our Schools

Despite limited funds, music in our schools should remain a priority. Music has many benefits for people. It can stir up deep emotions; it can make you want to dance. Doctors report that it can even lower your blood pressure. Babies who listen to Mozart are said to learn faster than babies who don't. Those are just a few of the life enrichments that come from exposure to music. Our school offers three distinct opportunities for children to participate in music education and nearly 95% of our 3rd-8th graders participate in at least one of these programs. Each is important to our students, their parents, and our community as a whole, and should continue to be fully funded..

Eager young musicians can join our orchestra program in third grade and learn how to play a stringed instrument such as the violin, viola or cello. In third grade, any interested student will be provided with an instrument, a case and a bow. They learn the names of the strings and how to hold the instrument. With just a few weeks' practice, they will learn how to glide the bow along the strings producing a lovely tone. Playing a stringed instrument in the orchestra helps students to read notes, hear pitches and play many famous pieces of music. Orchestra introduces the timeless tunes of Bach and Beethoven to many of our students for the very first time. Parents and grandparents are always filled with gratification when they see their son or daughter perform these classic melodies. Weather or not they become capable musicians later in life, these youngsters will take an appreciation for orchestral music with them into adulthood.

By fourth grade students can participate in band. Here they begin learning the wind instruments – the shiny brass family including trumpet and trombone - the fascinating woodwinds like the flute and the clarinet and the unmistakable sounds of the percussion instruments. When the band practices, the rat-tat-tat of the snare drum and the boom of the bass drum can be heard keeping the entire band in time.

Name _____

Our band elicits a swell of pride from our whole community as they march in our holiday parades in their bright uniforms. Many band members go on to become members of community bands, and some pursue their craft as freelance musicians in rock or jazz groups.

About 30% of our students join the choir as well as the band or orchestra. The choir provides a wonderful opportunity for them to sing their hearts out, and much more. Choir members learn vocal technique. They not only learn how to read notes and follow a melodic line, but how to breathe properly in order to produce a beautiful singing tone. They also learn to avoid straining their voices. For many students, the choir offers their only opportunity to develop their voices and sing in public. The experience builds confidence for public speaking and making presentations. Additionally, several students who struggle with academics say that choir offered them their only chance to feel successful in school.

In these difficult economic times, it is easy to understand why some believe school funds should be reserved strictly for academics. Interestingly a study published in 2007 by music professor Christopher Johnson showed that elementary students in schools with comprehensive music programs scored about 20 points higher on standardized tests than did similar schools with weaker music programs. However, music plays a central role in helping our children develop their minds and talents. Additionally, like sports, it fosters a spirit of cooperation and builds character and confidence. Quite simply, our band, choir and orchestra work together to create a balanced music program that must be preserved for the benefit of our students and our community.

The Benefits of Music in Our Schools

introduction

1.) Despite limited funds, music in our schools should remain a priority. Music has many benefits for people. It can stir up deep emotions; it can make you want to dance. Doctors report that it can even lower your blood pressure. Babies who listen to Mozart are said to learn faster than babies who don't. Those are just a few of the life enrichments that come from exposure to music. Our school offers three distinct opportunities for children to participate in music education and nearly 95% of our 3rd-8th graders participate in at least one of these programs. Each is important to our students, their parents, and our community as a whole, and should continue to be fully funded.

lead -
amazing
facts

orchestra

2.) Eager young musicians can join our orchestra program in third grade and learn how to play a stringed instrument such as the violin, viola or cello. In third grade, any interested student will be provided with an instrument, a case and a bow. They learn the names of the strings and how to hold the instrument. With just a few weeks' practice, they will learn how to glide the bow along the strings producing a lovely tone. Playing a stringed instrument in the orchestra helps students to read notes, hear pitches and play many famous pieces of music. Orchestra introduces the timeless tunes of Bach and Beethoven to many of our students for the very first time. Parents and grandparents are always filled with gratification when they see their son or daughter perform these classic melodies. Weather or not they become capable musicians later in life, these youngsters will take an appreciation for orchestral music with them into adulthood.

specific
examples,
logical
reasoning

band

3.) By fourth grade students can participate in band. Here they begin learning the wind instruments – the shiny brass family including trumpet and trombone - the fascinating woodwinds like the flute and the clarinet and the unmistakable sounds of the percussion instruments. When the band practices, the rat-tat-tat of the snare drum and the boom of the bass drum can be heard keeping the entire band in time.

specific
examples,
logical
reasoning

Our band elicits a swell of pride from our whole community as they march in our holiday parades in their bright uniforms. Many band members go on to become members of community bands, and some pursue their craft as freelance musicians in rock or jazz groups.

specific
examples,
logical
reasoning

4.) About 30% of our students join the choir as well as the band or orchestra. The choir provides a wonderful opportunity for them to sing their hearts out, and much more. Choir members learn vocal technique. They not only learn how to read notes and follow a melodic line, but how to breathe properly in order to produce a beautiful singing tone. They also learn to avoid straining their voices. For many students, the choir offers their only opportunity to develop their voices and sing in public. The experience builds confidence for public speaking and making presentations. Additionally, several students who struggle with academics say that choir offered them their only chance to feel successful in school.

specific
examples,
logical
reasoning

5.) ^{acknowledging alternate view} In these difficult economic times, it is easy to understand why some believe school funds should be reserved strictly for academics. Interestingly a study published in 2007 by music professor Christopher Johnson showed that elementary students in schools with comprehensive music programs scored about 20 points higher on standardized tests than did similar schools with weaker music programs. However music plays a central role in helping our children develop their minds and talents. Additionally, like sports, it fosters a spirit of cooperation and builds character and confidence. ^{reiterate the claim} Quite simply, our band, choir and orchestra work together to create a balanced music program that must be preserved for the benefit of our students and our community.

powerful
evidence,
statistic

conclusion

Name _____

The Benefits of Music in Our Schools

- 1.) Number each paragraph. Circle the introduction and box the conclusion.
- 2.) What is the ISSUE that the author makes? _____
- 3.) Underline each main reason and write a blurb in the margin next to paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 that tells what the entire paragraph is about.
- 4.) What did you learn about the band, orchestra and choir? Did the author try to convince you to join any one of the three? _____
- 5.) What is the author's point of view about the band, orchestra and choir? How does this view support the claim that music programs should be fully funded? _____

- 6.) Can you think of anybody who might disagree with the author's claim, and if so, why? _____

- 7.) What statistical information does the author use to support her claim? _____

- 8.) Do you think this is an expository/informative, persuasive, or argument piece? Why? _____

Name _____

Rise and Shine?

The alarm blares. I roll over, cover my head with a pillow. It's time to get up for school, but I'm exhausted. For middle school students the school day begins early – by 7:20. So, I drag myself up, throw on some clothes, grab something to eat and try to make it to the bus stop on time. The question is, should middle schools begin their day so early. Realistically, might we consider beginning middle school classes a little later?

Fact: as children enter adolescence they require more sleep. Their bodies and their psyches are going through many changes and sleep is necessary to replenish and nourish them through this process. The demands of homework and school activities often keep these same students up late at night, stealing precious minutes, even hours of sleep. Scientific studies have shown that the biological clocks of kids in the 11-14 age bracket change with the onset of puberty. Their natural inclination is to stay up later at night and sleep later in the morning. This is a switch from the first 10 years of life where children wake up early bounding with energy. Considering this biological reality, it makes sense to provide middle schoolers with the sleep and schedule best suited to their needs. Without a doubt, starting the school day at 8:45 would be beneficial to the health, attitudes and academic progress of middle school students. Further, it would be a welcome change for teachers who must fight for the attention of their sleepy first-period students and parents sick of struggling to get their sons and daughters out of bed on time.

One reason that middle and high schools begin their days early and elementary schools begin later is to allow school buses time to drop off the older kids, and then make a second trip for the elementary schoolers. While I can understand the problems school systems have with scheduling a limited number of busses transporting a lot of kids, the simple solution might be to just reverse the route. Pick up the elementary school students first -- after all, they are usually up by 6:00 AM anyway – then come

Name _____

back for the older students. Elementary school can begin at 7:20 and end at 2:10. The younger children would enjoy more time after school for healthy outdoor play while the older students reap the benefit of extra sleep.

Some may believe that older students must get out of school earlier to get to after school jobs on time. This might be a relevant argument for highschoolers but middle school students can't get regular jobs anyway. Those who baby-sit usually do so in the evening or on weekends, not in the early afternoon. Furthermore, most part time job shifts begin at 5:00 or 6:00. My older brother has worked as a counter helper at McDonald's and a stocker at American Eagle and he never had to be in before 5:00. In fact, cooperating with their natural sleep rhythms and getting enough rest will contribute to greater job productivity, less absenteeism and better concentration. Along with teachers, parents and the middle school students themselves, employers will benefit when their young workers get proper rest.

National studies have concluded that about 80% of all young adolescents get less than the recommended nine hours of sleep at night. Alarming, the same study concluded that 10% of all teenagers get less than six hours of sleep at night. The consequences of chronic sleep deprivation can be serious and a simple solution to this problem is to start middle school later. Easy for bus schedules to accommodate, this simple change can alleviate stresses on parents, teachers, and middle-school students.

Rise and Shine?

1.) *introduction* The alarm blares. I roll over, cover my head with a pillow. It's time to get up for school, but I'm exhausted. For middle school students the school day begins early – by 7:20. So, I drag myself up, throw on some clothes, grab something to eat and try to make it to the bus stop on time. The question is, should middle schools begin their day so early. Realistically, might we consider beginning middle school classes a little later? *claim*

2.) Fact: as children enter adolescence they require more sleep. Their bodies and their psyches are going through many changes and sleep is necessary to replenish and nourish them through this process. The demands of homework and school activities often keep these same students up late at night, stealing precious minutes, even hours of sleep. Scientific studies have shown that the biological clocks of kids in the 11-14 age bracket change with the onset of puberty. Their natural inclination is to stay up later at night and sleep later in the morning. This is a switch from the first 10 years of life where children wake up early bounding with energy. *need for sleep*

Considering this biological reality, it makes sense to provide middle schoolers with the sleep and schedule best suited to their needs. Without a doubt, starting the school day at 8:45 would be beneficial to the health, attitudes and academic progress of middle school students. Further, it would be a welcome change for teachers who must fight for the attention of their sleepy first-period students and parents sick of struggling to get their sons and daughters out of bed on time. *powerful evidence*
specific examples, logical reasoning

3.) One reason that middle and high schools begin their days early and elementary schools begin later is to allow school buses time to drop off the older kids, and then make a second trip for the elementary schoolers. While I can understand the problems school systems have with scheduling a limited number of busses transporting a lot of kids, the simple solution might be to just reverse the route. *how it benefits students, teachers, parents*
basic issues
acknowledging alternate point of view

Pick up the elementary school students first -- after all, they are usually up by 6:00 AM anyway -- then come back for the older students. Elementary school can begin at 7:20 and end at 2:10. The younger children would enjoy more time after school for healthy outdoor play while the older students reap the benefit of extra sleep.

4.) Some may believe that older students must get out of school earlier to get to after school jobs on time. This might be a relevant argument for highschoolers but middle school students can't get regular jobs anyway. Those who baby-sit usually do so in the evening or on weekends, not in the early afternoon. Furthermore, most part time job shifts begin at 5:00 or 6:00. My older brother has worked as a counter helper at McDonald's and a stocker at American Eagle and he never had to be in before 5:00. In fact, cooperating with their natural sleep rhythms and getting enough rest will contribute to greater job productivity, less absenteeism and better concentration. Along with teachers, parents and the middle school students themselves, employers will benefit when their young workers get proper rest.

5.) National studies have concluded that about 80% of all young adolescents get less than the recommended nine hours of sleep at night. Alarming, the same study concluded that 10% of all teenagers get less than six hours of sleep at night. The consequences of chronic sleep deprivation can be serious and a simple solution to this problem is to start middle school later. Easy for bus schedules to accommodate, this simple change can alleviate stresses on parents, teachers, and middle-school students.

logical reasoning

job conflicts

acknowledging opposing view

anecdote - strong evidence

logical reasoning

powerful statistical evidence

restated claim

conclusion

Name _____

Analyzing “Rise and Shine?”

- 1.) Number each paragraph. Circle the introduction and box the conclusion.
- 2.) What is the ISSUE raised in this piece? _____
- 3.) Underline each main reason and write a blurb in the margin explaining what the entire paragraph is about.
- 4.) What is the author’s claim _____
- 5.) Fill in the author’s plan:
Claim _____
Supporting Reason #1 _____
Supporting Reason #2 _____
Supporting Reason #3 _____
- 6.) Paragraph #2 begins with a fact. Why is this fact relevant to the author’s position? _____

- 7.) Read this fact: A recent study showed that adults who average less than 6 hours sleep a night are at a greater risk of heart disease than adults who sleep 7-8 hours a night. Should the author include this evidence in this piece? Does this fact support the author’s claim? Explain why or why not. _____

- 8.) Read paragraph 4 and underline the evidence taken from personal experience?
- 9.) What statistics are offered in the concluding paragraph? _____

Student Reference Sheet

Name _____

Effective and Ineffective Argument

It is always difficult to encourage someone else to see things from your point of view, but that is the challenge of argument writing. As a writer of an argument essay, your goal is to support your point of view with evidence so that it is considered valid – even by those who might disagree.

You do that by:

1) Presenting a number of clear, compelling facts that support your claim.

Example: If you state a claim that the local power plant poses an environmental hazard, you might present some statistics that project an increase in pollution. You can also support your claim with anecdotal evidence drawn from personal experience.

2.) Acknowledging your reader's sense of fairness, responsibility, caring and intelligence.

Be sensitive when addressing the shortcomings of the opposing point-of-view.

3.) Anticipating the arguments of those supporting the opposite view and address them with viable, fact-based alternatives.

Read the following argument essays on p. 43 and pp. 47-48. Compare these essays and analyze the strengths and weaknesses of each.

Be sure to look for:

- 1.) Clear facts
- 2.) Acknowledgement of the reader's sense of fairness, responsibility and caring
- 3.) Respectful recognition of the opposing point of view with suggested alternatives

The questions following each piece will help you analyze the effectiveness of the writing.

Name _____

Keep the Beaches Private

It costs a lot to live in Laurel Heights. That is why it is smart to not let just anybody from anywhere come use our beaches. Our beaches should be private for people who live here.

Our beaches are nice here. There is smooth, clean, soft sand and clean salt water. There is a place for a picnic or to take a suntan. There is a good snack stand that makes a lot of money and this is good for the town. The beach gets crowded and this is not a good thing. The sailing club meets there and some people play volleyball. The people in Laurel Heights love their beaches. These are only some of the reasons why they should be private.

Because the beaches are so nice, people in Laurel Heights pay a lot of taxes. This is to keep the beaches nice. So, why should other people just come in and use them and make them crowded? Let them pay their own taxes for their own beaches. It would be better to lower the taxes in Laurel Heights, because how can people pay all these taxes? This is the second reason that people should keep our beaches private.

If other people get to come to our beach, then we should get to have reserved beach parking for people who live in Laurel Heights. Nothing is worse than having an out-of-town car park in your lot. We should have the town bus go to the beach so you don't need a car. Plenty of people from inland want to come to Laurel Heights Beach because it is so beautiful, but they should just forget it. If you want to come here, why not move here?

So, that is why our beaches must be just ours to use. Because they're so nice, because of taxes, and because of parking. So, if you live out of town and want to come to Laurel Heights Beach, forget it.

Keep the Beaches Private

1.) It costs a lot to live in Laurel Heights. That is why it is smart not to let just anybody from anywhere come use our beaches. Our beaches should be private for people who live here.

2.) Our beaches are nice here. There is smooth, clean, soft sand and clean salt water. There is a place for a picnic or to take a suntan. There is a good snack stand that makes a lot of money and this is good for the town. The beach gets crowded and this is not a good thing. The sailing club meets there and some people play volleyball. The people in Laurel Heights love their beaches. These are only some of the reasons why they should be private.

3.) Because the beaches are so nice, people in Laurel Heights pay a lot of taxes. This is to keep the beaches nice. So, why should other people just come in and use them and make them crowded? Let them pay their own taxes for their own beaches. It would be better to lower the taxes in Laurel Heights, because how can people pay all these taxes? This is the second reason that people should keep our beaches private.

4.) If other people get to come to our beach, then we should get to have reserved beach parking for people who live in Laurel Heights. Nothing is worse than having an out-of-town car park in your lot. We should have the town bus go to the beach so you don't need a car. Plenty of people from inland want to come to Laurel Heights Beach because it is so beautiful, but they should just forget it. If you want to come here, why not move here?

5.) So, that is why our beaches must be just ours to use. Because they're so nice, because of taxes, and because of parking. So, if you live out of town and want to come to Laurel Heights Beach, forget it.

Name _____

Keep the Beaches Private

Number each paragraph of the piece titled: Keep the Beaches Private. Then answer the following questions:

- 1.) Read the second sentence in the piece titled Keep the Beaches Private. (*That is why it is smart not to let just anybody from anywhere use our beaches.*) If the reader disagrees, and currently believes that the beaches should not be private, how will he/she feel about that statement? _____

Do you think that the reader who believes that beaches should be open to everyone will read on past sentence 2 with an open mind? Why or why not?

- _____
- 2.) Does the writer state a claim in the introduction? If so, what? _____

- _____
- 3.) Read the main reason sentence in paragraph 2 (Our beaches are nice here.) Is that a convincing statement? Why or why not? _____

After reading all of paragraph 2, can you identify any evidence the author provided to support the main reason sentence? _____

- _____
- 4.) Look at paragraph 2 for sentence variety. Underline the sentences that begin with *There is*, *The*, or *These*. What does that tell you about word choice and sentence variety? _____

Student Page

Name _____

5.) Is paragraph 2 a convincing paragraph? Why or why not? _____

6.) Read paragraph 3. What is the main reason in this paragraph? _____

7.) In paragraph 3, has the author presented evidence about taxes? Why or why not?

8.) Reread paragraph 4. What is this paragraph all about? _____

9.) In paragraph 4, do you think the author wants guaranteed parking for residents or is encouraging residents to leave their cars home and take the bus? Why?

10.) Underline the insensitive statement in paragraph 4.

11.) Circle the conclusion. Has the author recognized the opposing viewpoint and offered alternatives here? _____

Why do you think that this conclusion is weak? _____

Name _____

Laurel Heights Beaches - Public or Private?

Just about everybody enjoys a trip to the beach on a hot summer day. The question is, should this be a privilege reserved only for citizens of shoreline communities, or should shoreline towns like Laurel Heights provide access to their beaches for their inland neighbors? This is a difficult issue that we need to resolve as soon as possible. Proposed here is a compromise that should satisfy both the residents of Laurel Heights and the people of neighboring communities.

Clearly, people love the beautiful beaches of Laurel Heights and come from miles around to enjoy them. The problem, of course, becomes over-crowding. From June through August, beach chairs, blankets and towels cover nearly every inch of the beach. It is difficult to enjoy sunbathing and relaxing when you are sitting in the midst of a crowd. If you don't arrive at the beach by 10:00 A.M., you will probably not find a spot that affords you any privacy. Because of this, residents are demanding that nonresidents be prohibited from using the Laurel Heights beaches. While this is understandable (in fact, I've felt that way myself), there is an issue of fairness. Shouldn't all people have the right to enjoy the beauty of the shoreline regardless of where they live? Perhaps the answer is to open the beach to a limited number of out-of-towners on designated days and then, from noon to closing time. In this way, taxpayers have the privilege of having preferential access to their favorite sunbathing spots, while providing limited opportunities for others. This would also limit over-crowding. Most people would agree that it is important to not only protect what we have, but to share it as responsibly as possible.

The other issue has to do with traffic. Not only are our local streets jammed with residential beach traffic in the summer months, but the highway also becomes backed up with out-of-town beach visitors, especially on weekends. For many residents, this situation is even more annoying than overcrowding on the beach because it affects not only beach-goers but anyone at all who must use the interstate. Our air quality becomes poor due to the standing traffic and resulting

Name _____

exhaust. It is difficult to drive from one end of town to the other, and citizens must build in quite a lot of extra time in order to get from one place to another. What can be done to alleviate this problem? The obvious solution is to limit the number of out-of-town cars that can park at our beaches and charge them a parking fee. The money collected can be used to widen roads, and to pay for traffic control officers at the busiest intersections.

Along with over-crowding and traffic, parking is another troubling issue. Most shoreline communities require stickers for residents which entitle them to free parking. We need to do the same thing here in Laurel Heights. This makes sense because residents have paid for beach upkeep through their property taxes. Therefore, it is clearly fair to ask that visitors from out-of-town contribute to the upkeep as well. This should be done by charging parking fees for non-residents. In fact, another means of both alleviating overcrowding in our beach lots and decreasing traffic is to create a number of beach lots at the Laurel Heights exit of the interstate for out-of-towners and charge a fee for parking and bus service from the lot to the beach.

We need to reach a decision. While it is certainly understandable that many believe the beaches of Laurel Heights should be for the exclusive use of residents, it is possible to devise a system that will not completely exclude nonresidents. By allowing nonresidents limited use of Laurel Heights beaches, while requiring them to contribute to the upkeep of the beaches, we create a situation that benefits all who wish to enjoy the coastline.

Laurel Heights Beaches - Public or Private?

- 1.) Just about everybody enjoys a trip to the beach on a hot summer day. The question is, should this be a privilege reserved only for citizens of shoreline communities, or should shoreline towns like Laurel Heights provide access to their beaches for their inland neighbors? This is a difficult issue that we need to resolve as soon as possible. Proposed here is a compromise that should satisfy both the residents of Laurel Heights and the people of neighboring communities.
- 2.) Clearly, people love the beautiful beaches of Laurel Heights and come from miles around to enjoy them. The problem, of course, becomes over-crowding. From June through August, beach chairs, blankets and towels cover nearly every inch of the beach. It is difficult to enjoy sunbathing and relaxing when you are sitting in the midst of a crowd. If you don't arrive at the beach by 10:00 A.M., you will probably not find a spot that affords you any privacy. Because of this, residents are demanding that nonresidents be prohibited from using the Laurel Heights beaches. (While this is understandable (in fact, I've felt that way myself), there is an issue of fairness. Shouldn't all people have the right to enjoy the beauty of the shoreline regardless of where they live? Perhaps the answer is to open the beach to a limited number of out-of-towners on designated days and then, from noon to closing time. In this way, taxpayers have the privilege of having preferential access to their favorite sunbathing spots, while providing limited opportunities for others. This would also limit over-crowding. Most people would agree that it is important to not only protect what we have, but to share it as responsibly as possible.
- 3.) The other issue has to do with traffic. Not only are our local streets jammed with residential beach traffic in the summer months, but the highway also becomes backed up with out-of-town beach visitors, especially on weekends. For many residents, this situation is even more annoying than overcrowding on the beach because it affects not only beach-goers but also anyone at all who must use the interstate. Our air quality becomes poor due to the standing traffic and resulting

nonconfrontational
tone

building
toward
a logical
conclusion
backed
by
specific
reasons

cites
specific
examples
and
concerns

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logical reasoning

presenting a logical solution

presenting a balanced view

restated claim

rational conclusion

Name _____

Laurel Heights Beaches - Public or Private?

Number each paragraph in this piece titled: Laurel Heights Beaches - Public or Private?

1.) Fill in the author's plan:

ISSUE: _____

CLAIM: _____

MAIN REASON #1: _____

MAIN REASON #2: _____

MAIN REASON #3: _____

2.) Reread paragraph 2. Underline the main reason addressed in this paragraph.

3.) What evidence of overcrowding does the author provide in paragraph 2?

4.) Does the author acknowledge the opposing point of view in paragraph 2? If so, what alternative is offered? _____

5.) What is the main reason addressed in paragraph 3? _____

6.) In paragraph 3, does the author present evidence about traffic. Underline these in green.

7.) In paragraph 3, does the author offer a solution to the traffic problem? What is it?

8.) What is paragraph 4 about? _____

9.) Think back to the previous piece about the beaches in Laurel Heights. Both authors are concerned about overcrowding, traffic, and parking. Which author supports his point-of-view more effectively? On the lines below, explain why, listing specific examples for comparison.

Name _____

Animal Testing

Just about every medical achievement in the 20th century has relied on the use of animals in some way. Many of our vaccines such as polio, would not have been possible without using animals for testing. For example, we would not have the research to help people with diabetes, who would not have the quality of life they enjoy today. Despite these benefits, some people believe using animals for research is cruel and that they should not be used for testing. This essay will discuss the advantages of animal testing.

Using animals allows scientists to test new drugs and create new medicines. Mice and rats are used frequently in the United States. There are similarities between animals and humans. Using comparative medicine, scientists can gain insight into many genetic disorders. Studying cockroaches who can regenerate damaged nerves and sharks who rarely get cancer can offer valuable information without putting humans at risk. If test drugs prove ineffective in animals, it is likely they will also be ineffective in humans. The converse is also true.

Performing these tests on animals is inexpensive. There is a large supply of animals for medical research. Some of the animals are purpose-bred, while others may be caught in the wild. Providing the costs of medical care for testing humans would be prohibitively expensive, and research would take much longer. Keeping expenses low means that patients may receive the benefits much sooner.

Some people argue that animal testing is cruel. While this might be true in some incidences, this research is done by veterinarians and animal health technicians, individuals who care deeply about animals. Their number one goal is to insure the well-being of these animals. They seek to minimize the distress and discomfort to make sure the quality of the data is successful. Also, most counties have specific legislation that sets a high standard of guidelines for laboratories and the professionals who work in them.

Name _____

Other people who disagree with animal testing claim that the information is not reliable because if it applies to animals, it does not necessarily apply to humans. However, scientists use animals that have biological systems very similar to humans. For instance, mice share 94% of DNA with humans, so when studying genetic disorders such as Parkinson's Disease or Down Syndrome, researchers can draw relevant conclusions based on this shared DNA. Animals and humans sometimes share the same cardiovascular and skin systems. It is true, animals and humans are different, but there are enough similarities to warrant the validity of the experiments.

Animal testing is needed and should continue to allow human beings the quality of life they deserve. It is our duty to support legislation that provides for the care and protection of animals while continuing the valuable research opportunities these creatures can provide.

Animal Testing

lead-
amazing
facts

introduction

issue:
animal
testing

1.) Just about every medical achievement in the 20th century has relied on the use of animals in some way. Many of our vaccines such as polio, would not have been possible without using animals for testing. For example, we would not have the research to help people with diabetes, who would not have the quality of life they enjoy today. Despite these benefits, some people believe using animals for research is cruel and that they should not be used for testing. ^{claim} (This essay will discuss the advantages of animal testing.)

2.) Using animals allows scientists to test new drugs and create new medicines.

testing
to
create
new
drugs

Mice and rats are used frequently in the United States. There are similarities between animals and humans. Using comparative medicine, scientists can gain insight into many genetic disorders. Studying cockroaches who can regenerate damaged nerves and sharks who rarely get cancer can offer valuable information for humans without putting humans at risk. If test drugs prove ineffective in animals, it is likely that they will also be ineffective in humans. The converse is also true.

3.) Performing these tests on animals is inexpensive. There is a large supply of animals for medical research. Some of the animals are purpose-bred, while others may be caught in the wild. Providing the costs of medical care for testing humans would be prohibitively expensive, and research would take much longer. Keeping expenses low means that patients may receive the benefits much sooner.

cost
effective

4.) Some people argue that animal testing is cruel. While this might be true in some incidences, this research is done by veterinarians and animal health technicians, individuals who care deeply about animals. Their number one goal is to insure the well-being of these animals. They seek to minimize the distress and discomfort to make sure the quality of the data is successful. Also, most countries have specific legislation that sets a high standard of guidelines for laboratories and the professionals who work in them.

is it
cruel?

5.) Other people who disagree with animal testing claim that the information is not reliable because if it applies to animals, it does not necessarily apply to humans. However, scientists use animals that have biological systems very similar to humans. For instance, mice share 94% of DNA with humans, so when studying genetic disorders such as Parkinson's Disease or Down Syndrome, researchers can draw relevant conclusions based on this shared DNA. Animals and humans sometimes share the same cardiovascular and skin systems. It is true, animals and humans are different, but there are enough similarities to warrant the validity of the experiments.

reliability

conclusion

restated
claim

6.) Animal testing is needed and should continue to allow human beings the quality of life they deserve. It is our duty to support legislation that provides for the care and protection of animals while continuing the valuable research opportunities these creatures can provide.

Name _____

Analyzing Animal Testing:

- 1.) Number each paragraph. Circle the introduction and box the conclusion.
- 2.) What is the ISSUE of this piece? _____
- 3.) What is the author's CLAIM? _____
- 4.) Underline each main reason and write a blurb in the margin next to paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 that tells what the entire paragraph is about.
- 5.) Fill in the author's plan:
TOPIC: _____
Main Reason #1 _____
Main Reason #2 _____
Main Reason #3 _____
Main Reason #4 _____
- 6.) Look at the introduction paragraph. Underline the LEAD in red, the CLAIM in blue. What kind of lead did the author use? _____
- 7.) Paragraph 2 begins with a fact. Why is this fact relevant to the author's claim?

- 8.) What type of statistical evidence would be effective to include in paragraph 3? _____

- 9.) In paragraph 5 circle the convincing statistical evidence.
- 10.) How does the author draw a logical conclusion in paragraph 3?

- 11.) In paragraph 4, underline the phrase that acknowledges an alternate point of view and then refutes it.
- 12.) Read the conclusion paragraph again. What does the author encourage you to do?

Name _____

Pro or Con? What's Your Claim?

The town of Eastville is considering tearing down three old Victorian buildings in the center of town. These buildings once housed stores, but they have not been well maintained, and will require at least a million dollars to restore them properly. The question is, should the town finance the restoration of these buildings or tear them down to make room for a park? Read the following Letters to the Editor arguing whether or not the buildings should be destroyed.

The first author claims that the buildings should be restored.

- Reasons they should be restored:
 - 1.) They have historic value and add charm and style to the town.
 - 2.) Restoring these buildings would promote downtown business.
 - 3.) A park in place of these buildings would do little to preserve the environment.

The second author claims that they should be torn down in favor of a park.

- Reasons to tear them down for a park:
 - 1.) Restoration would be costly and dangerous.
 - 2.) There are many traffic concerns.
 - 3.) A park would provide quality family time.

A number of questions follow each letter. Answering these questions will help you to analyze the writing.

Name _____

Tom Green's Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

Concerned citizens are all talking about the possible demolition of the stores on Elm Street in the center of town. These old historic buildings were once beautiful for sure, and it is a shame that they have not been maintained. The question is, should the town invest a million dollars to restore these buildings, or should the buildings be torn down to make way for some open space—a park for the residents to enjoy? Once we've examined all the facts, it becomes clear that we really must preserve these nostalgic and graceful landmarks.

Eastville is known both for its quaint and charming houses and shops and for the beautiful countryside surrounding them. In fact, this is what draws people to Eastville and why many of them have become life-long residents. While the three Victorian storefronts in question have peeling paint, loose shutters and rickety stairs, to many this is not considered an eyesore. In fact, many residents of Eastville believe this vintage look adds to the old-fashioned charm of downtown. Bulldozing these buildings to the ground would leave a gaping hole that will surely be filled with stores and franchises that belong to national chains. The unique town center of Eastville would be immediately transformed to Anytown, USA. As a lifelong resident of Eastville who hopes to grow old here, I believe that the promise of a park is insufficient compensation for the loss of the local architectural style and historic color that defines our town.

It is obvious that the people in Eastville are concerned about the economy and committed to supporting the small businesses in town. This support is crucial if we are to keep our downtown area vital and busy. I can understand that some citizens are concerned about the costs of the restoration. However, it will not only provide retail space for local businesses, but will also bring much-needed tax dollars to the

Name _____

town. The streets will bustle with stylish restaurants, perhaps a trendy boutique or even a cozy coffee shop to stop in while running errands in town. The other advantage of restoration is that it would eliminate our dependence on the mall. I speak for myself and many of my neighbors when I say we are tired of having to travel to the Westville Mall every time we want to eat out or shop for a gift. Clearly, the cost of transforming these glorious old buildings would be balanced by the restoration's boost to our local economy.

Opponents of restoration think that we need to preserve and promote open spaces such as town lands and forests and it is hard to disagree. After all, the environment is critically important to all of us. But, is a park in the center of downtown, where a diversity of wildlife couldn't possibly thrive, really an environmental plus? A more suitable place for a park would be in the beautiful woods and wetlands that surround Eastville. A more ecologically responsible plan might be to have our zoning board restrict new construction in undeveloped areas where animals, plants and birds make their homes. A wildlife refuge with nature trails, a picnic area and nature center would offer more environmental and recreational benefits than a small park squeezed between the downtown retail area.

We must think not only about the history of Eastville, but also about its future. By supporting the restoration of the ornate Victorian storefronts on Elm Street, we can preserve our town's history while bolstering our economy and protecting our environment. Without a doubt, the people of Eastville will be proud that they preserved these historic buildings for many generations to come.

Sincerely,

Tom Green

Tom Green's Letter to the Editor

To the Editor, *introduction*

1.) *issue* Concerned citizens are all talking about the possible demolition of the stores on Elm Street in the center of town. These old historic buildings were once beautiful for sure, and it is a shame that they have not been maintained. The question is, should the town invest a million dollars to restore these buildings, or should the buildings be torn down to make way for some open space—a park for the residents to enjoy? Once we've examined all the facts, *claim* it becomes clear that we really must preserve these nostalgic and graceful landmarks.

2.) Eastville is known both for its quaint and charming houses and shops and for the beautiful countryside surrounding them. In fact, this is what draws people to

Eastville and why many of them have become life-long residents. While the three Victorian storefronts in question have peeling paint, loose shutters and rickety

charm stairs, to many this is not considered an eyesore. In fact, many residents of Eastville

believe this vintage look adds to the old-fashioned charm of downtown. Bulldozing these buildings to the ground would leave a gaping hole that will surely be filled

with stores and franchises *logical reasoning, specific examples* that belong to national chains. The unique town center of Eastville would be immediately transformed to Anytown, USA. As a lifelong resident of Eastville who hopes to grow old here, I believe that the promise of a park is insufficient compensation for the loss of the local architectural style and historic color that defines our town.

supporting small downtown businesses 3.) It is obvious that the people in Eastville are concerned about the economy and committed to supporting the small businesses in town. This support is crucial if we *acknowledging alternate view* are to keep our downtown area vital and busy. I can understand that some citizens are concerned about the costs of the restoration. However, it will not only provide

retail space for local businesses, but will also bring much-needed tax dollars to the town. The streets will bustle with stylish restaurants, perhaps a trendy boutique or even a cozy coffee shop to stop in while running errands in town. The other advantage of restoration is that it would eliminate our dependence on the mall. I speak for myself and many of my neighbors when I say we are tired of having to travel to the Westville Mall every time we want to eat out or shop for a gift. Clearly, the cost of transforming these glorious old buildings would be balanced by the restoration's boost to our local economy.

4.) Opponents of restoration think that we need to preserve and promote open spaces such as town lands and forests and it is hard to disagree. After all, the environment is critically important to all of us. But, is a park in the center of downtown, where a diversity of wildlife couldn't possible thrive, really an environmental plus? A more suitable place for a park would be in the beautiful woods and wetlands that surround Eastville. A more ecologically responsible plan might be to have our zoning board restrict new construction in undeveloped areas where animals, plants and birds make their homes. A wildlife refuge with nature trails, a picnic area and nature center would offer more environmental and recreational benefits than a small park squeezed between the downtown retail area.

5.) We must think not only about the history of Eastville, but also about its future. By supporting the restoration of the ornate Victorian storefronts on Elm Street, we can preserve our town's history while bolstering our economy and protecting our environment. Without a doubt, the people of Eastville will be proud that they preserved these historic buildings for many generations to come.

Sincerely,

Tom Green

Name _____

Analyze Tom Green's Letter to the Editor

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Draw a circle around the introduction paragraph and a box around the conclusion paragraph.
- 3.) Reread the introduction. Underline the issue in RED and the claim in BLUE.
- 4.) Underline each main reason sentence. In the margin beside each paragraph, write a word or two that summarizes the main reason the author is trying to make. Circle evidence provided to support that reason.
- 5.) Point out the evidence provided to support the main reason in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4.
- 6.) Circle each definitive word or phrase. (of course, certainly, etc.)
- 7.) Read the following detail: *The creation of a number of small, tasteful restaurants or shops would also boost the economy by attracting out-of-town visitors.*

In which paragraph would this belong? _____

- 8.) Read the following detail: *According to the Eastville Historical Society, these buildings represent the best of Victorian architecture of a century ago.* In which paragraph would this belong? _____
- 9.) Read the following detail: *Has anyone considered the fact that an in-town park, with children playing near the main road could be dangerous?* In which paragraph would this belong? _____

Name _____

- 10.) Go back to paragraph 2. Underline the phrase that acknowledges the point of view that the buildings are a mess. How does the author address this issue? (In other words, how does the author respond with a “yes, but...”?) _____

- 11.) Reread paragraph 3. Underline the phrase that acknowledges that restoration will be expensive. Explain the “yes, but...” _____

- 12.) Reread paragraph 4. How does the author refute the idea that a park will help preserve the environment? What is the author’s alternative idea?

- 13.) Reread the conclusion paragraph, (paragraph 5). How does the author restate the claim? _____

- 14.) Before the author finished the final draft of this letter, he’d included the following sentence in the conclusion paragraph: So now, don’t you agree that tearing down these buildings would be a really stupid thing to do? Why do you suppose the author eliminated this sentence from the final draft? _____

Student Page

Name _____

15.) Summarize the author's claim:

The author wants to support his claim that _____

He believes that _____,

goes on to describe how _____,

and explains that _____

Name _____

Jessica Ramirez's Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

There isn't a person in town who isn't concerned about the debate over whether to restore the three old Victorian storefronts in the middle of Eastville Center or tear them down to make room for a park. This is an important question for all of us, and it is critical to consider all of the pros and cons. After careful consideration of the issue, it is apparent that a public park is the responsible choice for the future of Eastville.

Most of the people in our community agree that these three buildings could certainly be transformed into treasures. However, such a restoration would come at a prohibitive cost and the cosmetic repairs such as paint and carpentry are just the beginning. Restoration would require the removal of toxic lead paint and asbestos which is present in nearly all older buildings. In addition to the obvious health risks, the cost could become monumental. As a contractor, my father has seen first hand how the budgets for restoration projects often double once work commences, due largely to lead paint and asbestos containment. Bringing the old buildings up to today's electrical and plumbing standards could also result in skyrocketing costs. While the end result could be stunning, a million dollar budget might easily turn into a two million dollar debt for the taxpayers of Eastville to shoulder.

Many people feel that Eastville Center could use an economic boost and that restoring these buildings would provide a place for new business. This is probably true to some extent. But new business brings about other issues and concerns especially the need for additional parking and the complications caused by increased traffic. The town will have to create new parking areas, and quite possibly have to widen the streets. Doing so will not only result in more expenses, but also might necessitate the removal of some of the stately elm trees for which the street was named. Of course, we could plant new trees but none of us will be around to see these trees mature. The

Name _____

quality of life here in Eastville will surely be compromised by the traffic congestion and parking problems that will accompany this restoration.

Rather than altering our small-town atmosphere, creating a park will only enhance its charm. After shopping or visiting the post office, citizens will enjoy stopping for a few minutes of relaxation on a lovely park bench surrounded by flowers, birds, and perhaps even a fountain. There is scientific evidence suggesting that such exposure to nature helps people cope with the stresses of daily life. Additionally, moms and dads would appreciate having a centrally-located playground where they could meet other parents and their children could meet playmates. The park could include a baseball diamond for Little League games and serve as a site for town gatherings such as the Halloween Parade, Holiday Tree Lighting and Winter Festival. The trees and open spaces would provide homes for birds and other small animals. Picnic tables and water fountains would be available for gatherings and outings. Recently, my family visited an amazing park in the town of Ashland, Oregon. People of all ages and walks of life gathered to enjoy the clean outdoor space and each other's company. Likewise, our park, in the place of these dilapidated buildings, would provide a multitude of opportunities to bring our community together.

While we can appreciate the advantages of restoring these once-lovely buildings, doing so will increase noise, pollution, litter and traffic congestion in the center of our town. A public park -- where nature can flourish and our residents can gather -- preserves the character and tranquility of Eastville Center more effectively than an prohibitively expensive restoration of outdated buildings.

Sincerely,

Jessica Ramirez

Jessica Ramirez's Letter to the Editor

To the Editor, *introduction*

1.) There isn't a person in town who isn't concerned about the debate over whether to restore the three old Victorian storefronts in the middle of Eastville Center or tear them down to make room for a park. This is an important question for all of us, and it is critical to consider all of the pros and cons. After careful consideration of the *issue*, it is apparent that a public park is the responsible *claim* choice for the future of Eastville.

2.) Most of the people in our community agree that these three buildings could certainly be transformed into treasures. However, such a restoration would come at a prohibitive cost and the cosmetic repairs such as paint and carpentry are just the beginning. Restoration would require the removal of toxic lead paint and asbestos which is present in nearly all older buildings. In addition to the obvious health risks, the cost could become monumental. As a contractor, my father has seen first hand how the budgets for restoration projects often double once work commences, due largely to lead paint and asbestos containment. Bringing the old buildings up to today's electrical and plumbing standards could also result in skyrocketing costs. While the end result could be stunning, a million dollar budget might easily turn into a two million dollar debt for the taxpayers of Eastville to shoulder.

3.) Many people feel that Eastville Center could use an economic boost and that restoring these buildings would provide a place for new business. This is probably true to some extent. But new business brings about other issues and concerns especially the need for additional parking and the complications caused by increased traffic. The town will have to create new parking areas, and quite possibly have to widen the streets. Doing so will not only result in more expenses, but also might necessitate the removal of some of the stately elm trees for which the street was named. Of course, we could plant new trees but none of us will be around to see these trees mature. The

quality of life here in Eastville will surely be compromised by the traffic congestion and parking problems that will accompany this restoration.

4.) Rather than altering our small-town atmosphere, creating a park will only enhance its charm. After shopping or visiting the post office, citizens will enjoy stopping for a few minutes of relaxation on a lovely park bench surrounded by ^{specific detail} flowers, birds, and perhaps even a fountain. There is scientific ^{evidence} suggesting that such exposure to nature helps people cope with the stresses of daily life. Additionally, moms and dads would appreciate having a centrally-located playground where they could meet other parents and their children could meet playmates. The park could include a baseball diamond for Little League games and serve as a site ^{specific examples} for town gatherings such as the Halloween Parade, Holiday Tree Lighting and Winter Festival. The trees and open spaces would provide homes for birds and other small animals. Picnic tables and water fountains would be available for gatherings and outings. Recently, my family visited an amazing park in the town of Ashland, ^{anecdote} Oregon. People of all ages and walks of life gathered to enjoy the clean outdoor space and each other's company. Likewise, our park, in the place of these dilapidated buildings, would provide a multitude of opportunities to bring our community together.

5.) While we can appreciate the advantages of restoring these once-lovely buildings, doing so will increase noise, pollution, litter and traffic congestion in the center of our town. A public park -- where nature can flourish and our residents can gather -- ^{claim restated} preserves the character and tranquility of Eastville Center more effectively than an prohibitively expensive restoration of outdated buildings.

Sincerely,

Jessica Ramirez

Name _____

Analyze Jessica Ramirez's Letter to the Editor

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Draw a circle around the introduction paragraph and a box around the conclusion paragraph.
- 3.) Reread the introduction. Underline the issue in RED and the claim in BLUE.
- 4.) Underline each supporting reason sentence. In the margin beside each paragraph, write a word or two that summarizes the main reasons the author is supporting.
- 5.) Read the following detail: *Boy scouts and girl scouts could hike and conduct meetings in the park.* In which paragraph would this belong? _____

- 6.) Read the following detail: *The cost of safely disposing of toxic materials can be extremely steep.* In which paragraph would this belong? _____
- 7.) Read the following detail: *Even now, with the limited number of businesses that we have, in-town parking can be difficult.* In which paragraph would this belong?

- 8.) Go back to paragraph 2. Underline the phrase that acknowledges the point of view that the restored buildings would look lovely. How does the author address this issue? (In other words, how does the author respond with a "yes, but..."?)

Name _____

9.) Reread paragraph 3. Underline the phrase that acknowledges that restoration would provide income for the town. Explain the “yes, but...”. _____

10.) Reread the conclusion paragraph, paragraph 5. How does the author restate the claim? _____

11.) Before the author finished the final draft of this letter, she’d included the following sentence in her introduction: *If you think that restoring these buildings is a good idea, you are sadly mistaken!* Why do you suppose the author eliminated this sentence from the final draft?

12.) Summarize the author’s claim:

The author wants to support a claim that _____

She believes that _____

She goes on to describe how _____

Additionally, she explains that _____

Name _____

Think about it:

After reading both Tom's and Jessica's letters, how do you feel about this issue?
Which point of view was supported by more powerful evidence?

Which letter had better reasons that strengthened the essay? _____

Name _____

Acknowledge the Alternate Point of View

Think about the last time you tried to change someone's mind about something, perhaps your parent's. Imagine that you want to stay out until 11:00 PM and your parents want you home by 10:00 PM. When they explain all of the reasons why they want you home by 10:00, what will you do? For each reason they give, you'll come up with a "yes, but..." to encourage them to consider the validity of your viewpoint.

Further, if you're smart, you'll first acknowledge their point of view, then move on to the "yes, but..." And, you'll phrase your "yes, but..." carefully and skillfully. Here are two examples. Whose approach would be more logical – Chris' or Sarah's – and why?

Mom: You know your curfew is 10:00.

Chris: Yes, but it isn't a school night.

Mom: School night or not, 10:00 is late enough for a thirteen year-old to be out.

Chris: Yes, but everyone else will be out until 11:00.

Mom: I don't care what everyone else is doing. I care about you.

Chris: Yes, but you have to give me a little privilege so you can see that I'm responsible.

Mom: You know your curfew is 10:00.

Sarah: I do realize that I have a 10:00 curfew, which is fair. I was hoping that we could make an adjustment for Friday night because it's an unusual situation - and after all, it's not a school night.

Mom: School night or not, 10:00 is late enough for a thirteen year-old to be out.

Sarah: I agree with you. That's why I always try to be home on time. You know I'm responsible that way. So, don't you believe I'll also be responsible with an extended curfew just this once? Meghan's mom said okay, and so did Maria's mom. Maybe you want to talk to them about it.

Mom: I don't care what everyone else is doing. I care about you.

Sarah: I know you care about me and that you want what's best for me. That's why I won't disappoint you. You can trust me to be responsible with this. I won't let you down.

What's different about the second example? Go back to the second example and underline each phrase that Sarah uses in place of "yes, but..." that acknowledges and affirms her mother's point of view. Now let's see how Sara's dialogue will translate into an argument letter to her mom. Watch for each logical phrase she uses instead of a plain old "yes, but..." Then answer the questions that follow the letter.

Name _____

Sarah's Letter

Dear Mom,

This Friday night there will be a party at Emily's house. Her parents have agreed to have twenty kids there and they're providing pizza, unlimited soda, snacks and ice cream with a variety of toppings. The party is from 7:00-11:00. There'll be music, swimming and time to just hang out together and talk. I really want to go to the party, and it's important to me to be able to stay until the end, but I know my curfew is 10:00. Since this is a special occasion, I'd like to ask you to extend my curfew until 11:00 on Friday. There are actually a number of reasons I believe I should be trusted with this privilege.

I believe that a 10:00 curfew is fair and I always do my best to stick to it. Usually there is really no reason for me to be out later than 10:00. However, this Friday night is an unusual situation – a special occasion that isn't likely to happen again. Since it's not a school night, and it's a one-time thing, it seems reasonable to extend the curfew until 11:00 just this once. I could check in with you at 10:00, and be ready for you to pick me up at 11:00 sharp. It is important for me to show you that I'm responsible, and I hope that this will be an opportunity for me to do that.

My best friends, Meghan and Maria, will be at the party until 11:00 and I'd like to be with them. Of course, I realize that this is not a good enough reason for me to stay until 11:00 and that you are primarily concerned about me, not about what others are doing or not doing. However, without a doubt, Meghan, Maria and I have a good track record of following the rules and Friday night would be no exception. I know that their parents talked a lot about allowing them to stay out until 11:00. Perhaps you might want to call them to see how they came to their decision, or even to arrange a car pool that night.

There will be lots of fun activities at the party, right up until the end. I know that parents worry about the kinds of things that might take place at a party, but

Name _____

this is one party you won't need to worry about. Emily's parents will be home, and they've invited everyone's parents to check in with them, or to stop by that night. They've arranged for Emily's cousin, who is a D.J., to play music out by the pool all night. We can dance, request our favorite songs, or listen. The pizza will be delivered around 8:00 and Emily's dad will be "life-guarding" at the built-in pool all night. Three hours just won't be enough for a party like this, especially since the make-your-own sundae part of the party begins at 10:00.

As I get older I know I'll be faced with many new experiences, and that each experience will be an opportunity for me to be responsible and mature – or not. Friday night's party could be an opportunity for me to prove that I am ready to take on the increased responsibility of a later curfew. I am eager to show you that I can be responsible in small ways as well as bigger, more important ways. If you trust me with this later curfew, you can test how I'll respond to the responsibilities that will come with dating, dances and high school activities. You've always taught me to rise to the occasion, and that the way we carry out the smallest task is the way we will approach larger tasks. The Friday night party is a great opportunity for me to apply the lessons I've learned from you.

I have demonstrated in the past that I am capable of making responsible decisions. For all the reasons chronicled here, please grant me the privilege of an extended curfew this Friday night. Surely, you will be impressed by my maturity and sense of responsibility.

Your Responsible Daughter,

Sarah

P.S. Don't take my word for it; let me prove it to you.

Sarah's Letter

Dear Mom, *introduction*

1.) This Friday night there will be a party at Emily's house. Her parents have agreed to have twenty kids there and they're providing pizza, unlimited soda, snacks and ice cream with a variety of toppings. The party is from 7:00-11:00. There'll be music, swimming and time to just hang out together and talk. I really want to go to the party, and it's important to me to be able to stay until the end, but I know my curfew is 10:00. Since this is a special occasion, I'd like to ask you to extend my curfew until 11:00 on Friday. There are actually a number of reasons I believe I should be trusted with this privilege. *issue*

2.) I believe that a 10:00 curfew is fair and I always do my best to stick to it. *acknowledging alternative view*

Usually there is really no reason for me to be out later than 10:00. However, this Friday night is an unusual situation – a special occasion that isn't likely to happen again. Since it's not a school night, and it's a one-time thing, it seems reasonable to extend the curfew until 11:00 just this once. I could check in with you at 10:00, and be ready for you to pick me up at 11:00 sharp. It is important for me to show you that I'm responsible, and I hope that this will be an opportunity for me to do that. *responsible*

3.) My best friends, Meghan and Maria, will be at the party until 11:00 and I'd like to be with them. *acknowledging alternative view*

being with friends (Of course,) I realize that this is not a good enough reason for me to stay until 11:00 and that you are primarily concerned about me, not about what others are doing or not doing. However, without a doubt, Meghan, Maria and I have a good track record of following the rules and Friday night would be no exception. I know that their parents talked a lot about allowing them to stay out until 11:00. Perhaps you might want to call them to see how they came to their decision, or even to arrange a car pool that night.

4.) There will be lots of fun activities at the party, right up until the end. I know that parents worry about the kinds of things that might take place at a party, but *refuting worry*

this is one party you won't need to worry about. Emily's parents will be home, and they've invited everyone's parents to check in with them, or to stop by that night. They've arranged for Emily's cousin, who is a D.J., to play music out by the pool all night. We can dance, request our favorite songs, or listen. The pizza will be delivered around 8:00 and Emily's dad will be "life-guarding" at the built-in pool all night. Three hours just won't be enough for a party like this, especially since the make-your-own sundae part of the party begins at 10:00.

5.) As I get older I know I'll be faced with many new experiences, and that each experience will be an opportunity for me to be responsible and mature – or not.

opportunity
to build
trust

Friday night's party could be an opportunity for me to prove that I am ready to take on the increased responsibility of a later curfew. I am eager to show you that I can be responsible in small ways as well as bigger, more important ways. If you trust me with this later curfew, you can test how I'll respond to the responsibilities that will come with dating, dances and high school activities. You've always taught me to rise to the occasion, and that the way we carry out the smallest task is the way we will approach larger tasks. The Friday night party is a great opportunity for me to apply the lessons I've learned from you.

6.) I have demonstrated in the past that I am capable of making responsible decisions. For all the reasons chronicled here, please grant me the privilege of an extended curfew this Friday night. Surely, you will be impressed with my maturity and sense of responsibility.

conclusion

Your Responsible Daughter,

Sarah

P.S. Don't take my word for it; let me prove it to you.

Name _____

Analyze Sarah's Letter

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Draw a circle around the introduction paragraph and a box around the conclusion paragraph.
- 3.) Reread the introduction. Underline the issue in RED, and the claim in BLUE.
- 4.) Underline each supporting reason sentence. In the margin beside each paragraph, write a word or two that summarizes the author's supporting reason.
- 5.) Circle each definitive word or phrase. (of course, certainly, etc.)
- 6.) Read the following detail: *They have rafts, tubes, and even a slide for everyone to use.*

In which paragraph would this belong? _____
- 7.) Read the following detail: *It is said that there's an exception to every rule, and this party seems to be that exception.* In which paragraph would this belong?

- 8.) Go back to paragraph 2. Underline the phrase that acknowledges the alternate point of view that the usual 10:00 curfew is reasonable. How does the author address this issue? In other words, how does the author respond with a "yes, but..."?

Name _____

- 9.) Reread paragraph 3. Underline the phrase that acknowledges that “everyone else is doing it” is not an acceptable reason to extend the curfew. Explain the “yes, but...”.

- 10.) Reread paragraph 4. How does the author refute the idea that things could happen at this party that would be unacceptable?

- 11.) Reread the conclusion paragraph, paragraph 6. What does the author suggest that Sarah’s mother will have to lose by not extending the curfew?

What does the author suggest that Sarah’s mother will gain by extending the curfew?

- 12.) Before the author finished the final draft of this letter, she’d included the following sentence in her introduction: *If you think that a 10:00 curfew is reasonable, then you are out of touch with reality!* Why do you think she deleted it?

- 13.) Summarize the author’s position: _____

The author wants to support her claim that _____

She believes that _____

She goes on to describe how _____

She explains that _____

and _____

Name _____

CHALLENGE: Write a letter from Sarah's mom to Sarah from the alternate point of view. Avoid getting too emotional and try to approach this like a lawyer building a case. Try to leave your personal opinion aside, and instead put yourself into Sarah's mom's head. In your letter, you must offer sound reasons with evidence to make Sarah see the validity of the following points:

- 1.) When the 10:00 rule is broken once, it will be harder to accept it on a regular basis.
- 2.) It is dangerous for a young teen to be out after 10:00 P.M.
- 3.) There will be many rules in life that are unpleasant, but necessary.

THINK ABOUT IT. Which letter do you find the most effective? Sarah's or the one you just wrote for her mother? Which reasons would your parents be most likely to accept in support of your claim? How about your grandparents? Why?

Name _____

Be Kind to Animals - Go Vegetarian

Would you ever dream of hurting an animal? Can you imagine killing a bird or a small defenseless creature? If you had to kill the animal with your own two hands in order to eat it, would you? Could you? If the answer is no, or even an uncertain maybe, you should consider becoming a vegetarian. Refraining from eating animals is not only the ultimate kindness to our animal friends, but a boost to our own health and enjoyment as well!

If people really thought about it, most of them wouldn't eat meat. Just about everyone I know enjoys our furry and feathered friends. They own pets, visit zoos, take nature walks, collect stuffed animals - all because of an appreciation of and a fascination with our fellow living things here on earth. And then, without thinking they order a hamburger - which, let's face it, is ground cow! It's easy to enjoy the taste, because most people are brought up on it. But surely, if you stop to consider that a large living thing gave up its life in a most undignified, inhumane way in order for you to enjoy it on your dinner plate, you'd probably think twice before taking a bite. That poor creature (thought of as "beef" rather than as a moo-cow) was snatched from its mother at a young age, was force-fed to fatten him up, pumped up with antibiotics to keep him "healthy," and was deprived of a normal habitat in favor of a "meat farm." The most this sorry creature had to look forward to was his spot on the production line of the meat factory. If any of us had to witness this process and the slaughter that follows, would we be able to eat meat?

Eating meat is not healthy for humans. The saturated fat that raises cholesterol and clogs arteries comes from meat! It is not an accident that heart disease is a top cause of death in Americans. This is, in part, because of the great amount of meat we include in our diets. In fact, the American Heart Association encourages us to eat more fruits and vegetables, and to cut way back on the amount of meat we eat

Name _____

in order to remain heart healthy. Also, in order to increase production and to keep their livestock healthy, companies treat their herds of beef and flocks of chickens with antibiotics. While their animals may seem healthy, we are being hurt by the antibiotics being passed on to us through the meat we eat! Sure, we'd all like to enjoy a little finger-lickin' good fried chicken or juicy rack of spare ribs. But do we want to be medicated in the process? Eat enough of this meat and your body will begin to build up a resistance to antibiotics. Imagine having a throat infection and discovering that antibiotics won't help because you've ingested too many antibiotics in the meat you've eaten. Definitely, this a real future possibility - scary, but true!

You might be surprised to learn about the wide variety of appetizing vegetarian dishes available these days! These delicious alternatives to meat are not only scrumptious, but also easy to prepare! Rice pilaf with garden vegetables can be seasoned in a variety of ways. Vegetable soups with a soybean protein called tofu are satisfying and tasty. Beans of all kinds are a savory choice. Try black beans or kidney beans in place of meat in a stew or a casserole. They are filling and soak up the sauce they're cooked in. Nowadays, most restaurants offer many luscious vegetarian options - everything from pasta and omelets, to pizza and stir-fry. Couscous, falafel, and potato pancakes are just a few delectable vegetarian choices that you can enjoy at home or out. Certainly, there are many opportunities for enjoying palatable food while at the same time sparing our animal victims.

So, the next time you have the urge to order a burger, a steak, chops, or ribs, chicken pot pie or hot wings, pause for a moment. What in the world do you have to gain, besides a moment or two of good taste? Isn't the trade-off of vegetarianism worth it? Trade in the insensitive, unhealthy meat-eating lifestyle for the kind, healthy, delicious vegetarian way of life! You'll live longer and better as a vegetarian, and, without a doubt, your animal friends will thank you!

Be Kind to Animals - Go Vegetarian

introduction

rhetorical questions

lead

1.) Would you ever dream of hurting an animal? Can you imagine killing a bird or a small defenseless creature? If you had to kill the animal with your own two hands in order to eat it, would you? Could you? If the answer is no, or even an uncertain maybe, you should consider becoming a vegetarian. Refraining from eating animals is not only the ultimate kindness to our animal friends, but a boost to our own health and enjoyment as well!

issue statement

claim

love, appreciate animals

2.) If people really thought about it, most of them wouldn't eat meat. Just about everyone I know enjoys our furry and feathered friends. They own pets, visit zoos, take nature walks, collect stuffed animals - all because of an appreciation of and a fascination with our fellow living things here on earth. And then, without thinking they order a hamburger - which, let's face it, is ground cow! It's easy to enjoy the taste, because most people are brought up on it. But surely, if you stop to consider that a large living thing gave up its life in a most undignified, inhumane way in order for you to enjoy it on your dinner plate, you'd probably think twice before taking a bite. That poor creature (thought of as "beef" rather than as a moo-cow) was snatched from its mother at a young age, was force-fed to fatten him up, pumped up with antibiotics to keep him "healthy," and was deprived of a normal habitat in favor of a "meat farm." The most this sorry creature had to look forward to was his spot on the production line of the meat factory. If any of us had to witness this process and the slaughter that follows, would we be able to eat meat?

alternate view

emotional, judgmental language

rhetorical question

unhealthy

3.) Eating meat is not healthy for humans. The saturated fat that raises cholesterol and clogs arteries comes from meat! It is not an accident that heart disease is a top cause of death in Americans. This is, in part, because of the great amount of meat we include in our diets. In fact, the American Heart Association encourages us to eat more fruits and vegetables, and to cut way back on the amount of meat we eat

in order to remain heart healthy. Also, in order to increase production and to keep their livestock healthy, companies treat their herds of beef and flocks of chickens with antibiotics. While their animals may seem healthy, we are being hurt by the antibiotics being passed on to us through the meat we eat. (Sure, we'd all like to enjoy a little finger-lickin' good fried chicken or juicy rack of spare ribs.) (But do we want to be medicated in the process?) Eat enough of this meat and your body will begin to build up a resistance to antibiotics. Imagine having a throat infection and discovering that antibiotics won't help because you've ingested too many antibiotics in the meat you've eaten. (Definitely) this a real future possibility - scary, but true!

4.) You might be surprised to learn about the wide variety of appetizing vegetarian dishes available these days! These delicious alternatives to meat are not only scrumptious, but also easy to prepare! Rice pilaf with garden vegetables can be seasoned in a variety of ways. Vegetable soups with a soybean protein called tofu are satisfying and tasty. Beans of all kinds are a savory choice. Try black beans or kidney beans in place of meat in a stew or a casserole. They are filling and soak up the sauce they're cooked in. Nowadays, most restaurants offer many luscious vegetarian options - everything from pasta and omelets, to pizza and stir-fry. Couscous, falafel, and potato pancakes are just a few delectable vegetarian choices that you can enjoy at home or out. (Certainly) there are many opportunities for enjoying palatable food while at the same time sparing our animal victims.

5.) So, the next time you have the urge to order a burger, a steak, chops, or ribs, chicken pot pie or hot wings, pause for a moment. What in the world do you have to gain, besides a moment or two of good taste? Isn't the trade-off of vegetarianism worth it? Trade in the insensitive, unhealthy meat-eating lifestyle for the kind, healthy, delicious vegetarian way of life! You'll live longer and better as a vegetarian, and, without a doubt, your animal friends will thank you!

conclusion

Name _____

Analyze Be Kind to Animals - Go Vegetarian

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Draw a circle around the introduction paragraph and a box around the conclusion paragraph.
- 3.) Reread the introduction. Underline the lead in RED, the issue statement in BLUE, and the claim in GREEN.
- 4.) Underline each main reason sentence. In the margin beside each paragraph, write a word or two that summarizes the main argument or point the author is trying to make.
- 5.) Draw a squiggly line under all emotional or judgmental language.
- 6.) Circle each definitive word or phrase. (of course, certainly, etc.)
- 7.) Read the following detail: *Chickens are jammed in small unhealthy spaces until it's time for slaughter.* In which paragraph would this belong? _____
- 8.) Read the following detail: *Human beings do not digest meat as well as they digest vegetables and grains.* In which paragraph would this belong? _____
- 9.) Go back to paragraph 2. Underline the phrase that acknowledges the alternate point of view that eating meat is reasonable. How does the author address this issue? In other words, how does the author respond with a “yes, but...”? _____

Name _____

- 10.) Reread paragraph 3. Underline the phrase that acknowledges that eating meat is enjoyable.

Explain the “yes, but...”. _____

- 11.) Reread paragraph 4. List every adjective that the author uses to describe vegetarian dishes. _____

- 12.) Reread the conclusion paragraph, paragraph 5. What does the author suggest that the reader will have to lose by eating meat? _____

What does the author suggest the reader will gain by becoming a vegetarian?

- 13.) Summarize the author’s position:

The author wants to convince the reader that _____

He/she believes that _____ ,

goes on to describe how _____ ,

and explains that _____ .

Name _____

Eating Meat is Healthy and Natural

You are constantly faced with a choice whether in the grocery store or at your favorite restaurant, do I choose the tender filet mignon or the salad? Which is healthier? At first, it seems that the salad would be the healthy choice. Many people think that eating vegetarian would be the healthy alternative, but does eating meat have some advantages as well? Eating meat from animals is not cruel, provides vitamins and nutritional value while being convenient and less expensive than the alternative.

Many vegetarians argue that eating animals is just plain cruel. I can understand the concern for animals; however, eating animals is just part of the natural food chain. Animals derive nourishment from the meat of other animals, and humans gain important nourishment from eating meat as well. Another concern of vegetarians is the way animals are slaughtered and killed. While I agree that traditional slaughterhouses should be condemned, there are organizations that treat animals in a very humane way. The American Humane Association will award meat certifications to farms that practice humane farming techniques. Science experts and veterinarians, people who care deeply about animals, help set the standards for these organizations. This assures the safe and humane treatment of our animals.

Proponents of vegetarianism seem convinced that eating meat is not healthy. This is not entirely true. There are several reasons that eating a well-balanced omnivorous diet is a good choice. Vegetarians who do not supplement their diet with Vitamins D, B12 and iron could become anemic. They are also at least 30% more likely to suffer bone fractures because of the limited calcium in a typical vegetarian diet. Meat eaters, on the other hand, gain these vitamins and the necessary iron every day in their diets. Foods like chicken, liver and beef are rich in protein and iron and can be absorbed into the body naturally through food. Even those who

Name _____

must follow low-fat diets can enjoy grass-fed beef, which is widely available and contains 33-50% less fat and calories than regular beef. Furthermore, meat such as salmon contains omega-3 fatty acids. These acids can act as anti-inflammatory agents and there is research to show they also help lower triglycerides and blood pressure. Omega-3 fatty acids even help with emotional issues such as depression.

Perhaps another reason for eating meat is just the convenience and the variety available to us. For many years dieticians have reported that the “healthiest diets are the most varied diets.” Trying to find recipes for interesting and tasty vegetable dishes would be more difficult than recipes containing meat. While I have noticed that magazines and cooking shows are beginning to offer more recipes for vegetarians, often these recipes have arugula, parsnips, and other vegetables that might not be readily available at the local food store. In addition, fresh greens and herbs can be expensive. They often don’t freeze well, so you have to eat them while they are fresh, creating more frequent trips to the grocery store. The cost of organic, fresh vegetables along with the additional trips to the market make eating vegetarian more expensive than the all-American main course of meat.

Eating is one of America’s favorite past times. We should enjoy the foods we eat. With the help of animal protection groups to insure humane treatment of livestock, we can focus on making the healthy choices our bodies need to survive while enjoying the taste of meat at our table.

Eating Meat is Healthy and Natural

introduction

1.) You are constantly faced with a choice whether in the grocery store or at your favorite restaurant, do I choose the tender filet mignon or the salad? Which is healthier? At first, it seems that the salad would be the healthy choice. Many people think that eating vegetarian would be the healthy alternative, but does eating meat have some advantages as well? Eating meat from animals is not cruel, provides vitamins and nutritional value while being convenient and less expensive than the alternative.

lead

issue

claim

is eating animals cruel?

2.) Many vegetarians argue that eating animals is just plain cruel. I can understand the concern for animals, however; eating animals is just part of the natural food chain. Animals derive nourishment from the meat of other animals, and humans gain important nourishment from eating meat as well. Another concern of vegetarians is the way animals are slaughtered and killed. While I agree that traditional slaughterhouses should be condemned, there are organizations that treat animals in a very humane way. The American Humane Association will award meat certifications to farms that practice humane farming techniques. Science experts and veterinarians, people who care deeply about animals, help set the standards for these organizations. This assures the safe and humane treatment of our animals.

is eating meat healthy?

3.) Proponents of vegetarianism seem convinced that eating meat is not healthy. This is not entirely true. There are several reasons that eating a well-balanced omnivorous diet is a good choice. Vegetarians who do not supplement their diet with Vitamins D, B12 and iron could become anemic. They are also at least 30% more likely to suffer bone fractures because of the limited calcium in a typical vegetarian diet. Meat eaters, on the other hand, gain these vitamins and the necessary iron every day in their diets. Foods like chicken, liver and beef are rich in protein and iron and can be absorbed into the body naturally through food. Even those who

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4.) Perhaps another reason for eating meat is just the convenience and the variety available to us. For many years dieticians have reported that the "healthiest diets are the most varied diets." Trying to find recipes for interesting and tasty vegetable dishes would be more difficult than recipes containing meat. While I have noticed that magazines and cooking shows are beginning to offer more recipes for vegetarians, often these recipes have arugula, parsnips, and other vegetables that might not be readily available at the local food store. In addition, fresh greens and herbs can be expensive. They often don't freeze well, so you have to eat them while they are fresh, creating more frequent trips to the grocery store. The cost of organic, fresh vegetables along with the additional trips to the market make eating vegetarian more expensive than the all-American main course of meat.

5.) Eating is one of America's favorite past times. We should enjoy the foods we eat. With the help of animal protection groups to insure humane treatment of livestock, we can focus on making the healthy choices our bodies need to survive while enjoying the taste of meat at our table.

conclusion

Name _____

Analyze Eating Meat is Healthy & Natural

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Draw a circle around the introduction paragraph and a box around the conclusion paragraph.
3. What is the issue raised in this piece? What is the author's claim? _____

4. Underline each main reason and write a blurb in the margin indicating what the entire paragraph is about.
5. Mark each instance where the author acknowledges the opposing view point, using a squiggly line.
6. Insert this sentence in the appropriate place:
The price of organic produce is really prohibitive to most families.
7. Argument writing is more formal and fact-based than persuasive writing. Identify some of those examples of that as you compare this essay and the Go Vegetarian essay. _____

8. Underline any sentences that express an emotional, one-sided or judgmental view. Did you find more examples in the persuasive or the argument essay? _____

9. Circle the statistics in paragraph 3 and the quote in paragraph 4.

Cut and Paste Activity

Get Out There and Work

Introduction:

One thing no one would argue with - everything costs money. Clothes, food, a decent place to live - these are just the necessities! And, thinking ahead to college, all I can see are dollar signs. This is why the legal working age should be lowered to thirteen. Working not only helps with living expenses; it builds responsibility; helps finance extras like movies, videos, and social activities; and enables students to begin saving for a college education.

Reason #1: It's only fair that teenagers contribute toward household living expenses.

Reason #2: Working is one of the best ways to learn responsibility.

Reason #3: Most teenagers want to be able to pay for the "extras" they need with their own money.

Reason #4: With the high cost of college these days, it is important for teens to begin a college savings account.

Conclusion:

Most parents agree that thirteen-year-olds are mature enough to assume the responsibility of working, saving and contributing toward both the necessities and the extras required in today's world. A healthy balance between school, work and socializing would give young teens a headstart on a successful future.

(Cut along dotted lines between each section.)

Evidence Sentences

Just like with homework, the scheduling and pacing necessary for doing a successful job are real responsibility builders.

Books alone for each year of college can cost hundreds of dollars.

I don't know many families who can finance college without scrimping, saving, and borrowing.

There are hundreds of daily expenses that slowly add up in a household.

Even going to a movie and getting a soda and popcorn costs over ten dollars.

The more money you can pay up front for college courses, the less you'll have to borrow.

Balancing school, work, and social activities is a real life skill that all responsible young adults need.

Most parents would be really impressed if their thirteen year-old son or daughter offered them a contribution toward the groceries.

A thirteen year old will value their possessions more if they use money they've earned to pay for them.

There are often lab fees associated with college courses that are above and beyond the basic tuition.

Once working, smart teens can establish a responsible, balanced budget, and open a checking and savings account.

Of course, if the thirteen year-old is irresponsible and neglects school work, he can always leave his job until he's a little older and better able to manage his responsibilities.

(Cut along dotted lines between each detail.)

Cut and Paste

Evidence Sentences

These are just a few of the many college expenses toward which students can begin to save.

By the age of thirteen, kids can begin to recognize that every time they use their CD player, TV, or hair dryer, the electric bill goes up—and this costs money.

Most parents will provide a basic wardrobe for their teens, but who wouldn't like to be able to buy a few tee shirts, an extra pair of sneakers, or a special pair of jeans?

Another important extra for older teens is a car, or at least money for gas and insurance. Why not start saving at thirteen, to make that dream a reality?

Contributing a little toward everyday living expenses is one way for teens to show their gratitude for the years of care parents provided.

These are just a few of the many reasons that working builds responsibility.

The phone bill and online costs for e-mail are household expenses that benefit teens, and most teens would be willing to contribute toward them.

Most college students will need towels and bedding, desk supplies, maybe even a computer.

Teens providing for all of their own extras not only is a help to parents' pocketbooks, but it can be a source of pride and independence for the teen.

Parents and teachers frequently encourage teenagers to build responsibility.

Many parents would appreciate some financial support toward household expenses more than the typical chores that teens might do.

Having to pay for their own social activities and extra purchases helps teens to have a greater appreciation for the things they have and the value of the dollar.

Not only can working teens contribute to a college savings account, but colleges pay attention to work experience on the college application.

Cut and Paste Activity

Pesticides or Pests

Introduction:

Which is more harmful to our health and our environment – pesticides or pests? Clearly, nobody wants pesky ants, termites, bees, wasps, or roaches invading their home. However, as annoying as those insects can be, the use of powerful pesticides in controlling these insects may be far more troubling than the pests themselves. In order to protect the environment, and even our own health, it is crucial that we greatly limit the use of pesticides.

Reason #1: There are many health risks associated with pesticide use.

Reason #2: Pesticides are passed through the food chain and the environment, with frightening results.

Reason #3: There are safer, more natural ways to control pesky insects.

Conclusion:

It's certainly true that the use of pesticides is a convenient quick fix for controlling insects and other pests. But, after careful consideration, it is obvious that the dangers outnumber the benefits. Avoiding the use of pesticides will keep us healthy, keep the environment safe, and will encourage the use and development of safer methods of pest control in the future.

(Cut along dotted lines between each section.)

Cut and Paste

Evidence Sentences

In fact, in 1973, the pesticide DDT was banned in the United States due to the related health risks.

A simple way to rid crops of insects is to plow them under ground, away from young plants.

Farmers have seen great success in controlling pests by introducing other, more crop-friendly insects who attack and kill the pests that harm crops.

The run-off from the pesticide ethylene dibromide has been blamed for killing thousands of fish in nearby streams and rivers.

An old-fashioned, yet effective means of pest control, is the use of netting around fruit trees and bushes.

The honeybee has also been poisoned as it alights on pesticide-treated plants, carrying the poison back to the hive.

If fruits and vegetables are not thoroughly washed, harmful traces of pesticides can be ingested, therefore harming humans.

Would you ever consider mixing toxic chemicals with food? Of course not - but that's what happens when farmers use pesticides on their crops.

The environmental costs of pesticide use cost Americans about a billion dollars a year.

What doctor would recommend ingesting a little fungicide or herbicide along with that juicy ripe peach?

Even on our own treated lawns, insects ingest pesticides which are then eaten by birds and other small creatures passing the poison along.

It's definitely healthier to pay a little more for pesticide-free produce.

Is it fair to expose wildlife to pesticides?

(Cut along dotted lines between each detail.)

Cut and Paste

Evidence Sentences

Using mulch made of leaves, grass, or synthetic materials is a great alternative to traditional weed-killing herbicides.

Scientists have been busy breeding new varieties of plants that are naturally more resistant to pests.

Farm workers who have been exposed to chemicals for long periods of time often develop serious health problems.

Although everyone loves a perfect, shiny red, wormless apple, a slightly less attractive, but pesticide-free product would be more what the doctor ordered.

Even livestock has been affected by pesticide use as cattle eat pesticide-treated grass and hay.

Other modern farmers use the Integrated Pest Management approach which combines many kinds of chemical-free techniques for reducing the pest problem.

In fact, the use of Integrated Pest Management has been proven to reduce the use of chemical prevention by half.

The trace amounts of chemicals that cling to produce may seem minimal, but when ingested over time can be harmful to your health.

While it's true that a high percentage of fruits and vegetables are lost to insect damage, is it really a good idea to risk our own health through pesticide use for better crop yields?

Children are particularly susceptible to the trace elements of pesticides left behind on the fruits and vegetables they eat.

It is unclear what the long-term risks of pesticide use might have on the food chain.

Sure, organically grown produce, for which farmers used alternatives to pesticides, cost a bit more, but is well worth it.

(Cut along dotted lines between each detail.)