

Mrs. Allen / Mr. Larson

7th Grade Humanities, Fall 2010

Learning Ladder B-14

09.13.10

Topic: Argumentative Writing

AFTER THIS CLASS YOU WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. Describe the basic characteristics of argumentative writing

EXPECTATIONS

1. Sit quickly and silently
2. Put only what is listed on top of your desk, everything else goes inside your desk
3. Fill in the proper heading
4. Silently work on mastering the “Do Now”

ON YOUR DESK

1. This Learning Ladder
2. 2 writing utensils (at least 1 pencil)
3. Humanities binder
4. Planner

Do Now

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the following quote from Abraham Lincoln. Then write about what the quote means to you. Also, write about what this quote says is important for making a successful argument.

“When I’m getting ready to reason with a man, I spend one-third of my time thinking about myself and what I am going to say -- and two-thirds thinking about him and what he is going to say.”

– Abraham Lincoln

Topic: Argumentative Writing

WHAT: In argumentative writing, you try to convince others:

- To agree with our facts
- Share our values
- Accept our argument and conclusions
- _____

WHEN: You write an argumentative essay in response to a PROMPT that states a _____
(opinion) on a _____. Examples:

- Which is a better soda: Pepsi or Coke?
- President Barack Obama will be considered one of the best presidents in history.

HOW: To effectively write an argumentative essay, you must do the following:

- **Brainstorm BOTH sides of the argument (3 reasons each)**
 - Like Lincoln said, it is important to think of both sides of question
 - Choose the side you would like to _____
- **State your position**
 - **CLAIM:** _____
- _____ **your position**
 - **CLARIFICATION:** By better I mean that Coke has a better taste, commercials, and design than Pepsi
 - Your clarification must **preview the arguments** that you will make in your essay.
- **Provide evidence that supports your** _____
 - **EVIDENCE:**
 - _____
 - _____
 - Coke commercials are more popular with television viewers than Pepsi commercials
 - The design of the Coke bottle has changed few times than the design of the Pepsi bottle because it is a class design

Topic: Argumentative Writing

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the following prompt and then complete the questions below.

“Schools should not be allowed to provide soda to students.”

1. Brainstorm 3 reasons for each argument

FOR SODA IN SCHOOLS	AGAINST SODA IN SCHOOLS
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

2. State your position on this prompt:

a. AGREE: Schools should be allowed to provide soda to students.

b. DISAGREE: _____

3. Explain your position:

a. AGREE: _____

b. DISAGREE: By not providing soda to students I mean that schools should not be allowed to sell or offer soda to students at anytime.

4. Provide evidence to support your position (at least two pieces of evidence):

a. AGREE: _____

b. DISAGREE: _____

_____ +

PROMPT: <i>Should the school year be year-round?</i>		
FOR YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL		AGAINST YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL
1.		1.
2.		2.
3.		3.
CLAIM		CLARIFICATION
AGREE	I believe the school year should be year-round.	By year-round I mean having school for part of every month of the year will ensure better content retention and development of successful habits in students
DISAGREE		

PRACTICE PROMPTS

PROMPT: <i>Should parents be allowed to monitor or censor their child's internet usage?</i>		
FOR CENSORSHIP		AGAINST CENSORSHIP
1.		1.
2.		2.
3.		3.
CLAIM		CLARIFICATION
AGREE		
DISAGREE		

PROMPT: Should cell phones be allowed in classrooms?		
FOR CELL PHONES		AGAINST CELL PHONES
1.		1.
2.		2.
3.		3.
CLAIM		CLARIFICATION
AGREE		
DISAGREE		

PROMPT: Should schools give students a “study hall” period each day?		
FOR STUDY HALL		AGAINST STUDY HALL
1.		1.
2.		2.
3.		3.
CLAIM		CLARIFICATION
AGREE		
DISAGREE		

Homework - Due tomorrow by 7:45 am

- *When finished, put this into your homework folder*
- *Don't forget to have a family member review your homework and sign your planner!*

INSTRUCTIONS: Practice preparing to write an argumentative essay by answering the following questions about the prompts below.

PROMPT: "Students should be required to take physical education (gym) courses."	
FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION	AGAINST PHYSICAL EDUCATION
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

1. State your position on this prompt:

- c. AGREE: _____
- d. DISAGREE: _____

2. Explain your position:

- e. AGREE: _____

- f. DISAGREE: _____

3. Provide evidence to support your position (at least two pieces of evidence):

- g. AGREE: _____

- h. DISAGREE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Practice preparing to write an argumentative essay by answering the following questions about the prompts below.

PROMPT: <i>“It should be illegal to criticize the President on television.”</i>	
FOR CRITICISM	AGAINST CRITICISM
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

1. State your position on this prompt:

i. AGREE: _____

j. DISAGREE: _____

2. Explain your position:

k. AGREE: _____

l. DISAGREE: _____

3. Provide evidence to support your position (at least two pieces of evidence):

m. AGREE: _____

n. DISAGREE: _____
