

Mrs. Allen / Mr. Larson

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Humanities, Fall 2010

Learning Ladder B-18

09.20.10

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## Topic: “Taking a Stand” – Argumentative Writing and Moral Dilemmas II

AFTER THIS CLASS YOU WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. Describe the basic characteristics of argumentative writing
2. Write an effective claim, clarification, and evidence for a prompt.

### 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 and analyze the following prompt. Write an effective claim, clarification, and one piece of evidence to support your position.

**PROMPT:** Many people believe that television violence has a negative effect on society because it promotes violence. Do you agree or disagree?

<i><b>PROMPT:</b> Violent television has a negative effect on society.</i>	
<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
•  •  •	•  •  •
<b>Claim:</b>	<b>Clarification:</b>
<b>Evidence:</b>	

**Topic: “Taking a Stand” – Argumentative Writing and Moral Dilemmas II**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Below are a few moral dilemmas – situations in which the “right” decision is complicated or difficult to determine. Read each and then write a CLAIM and CLARIFICATION for each.

**Moral Dilemma #1**

Judy was a twelve-year-old girl. Her mother promised her that she could go to a special rock concert coming to their town if she saved up from baby-sitting and lunch money to buy a ticket to the concert. She managed to save up the fifteen dollars the ticket cost plus another five dollars. But then her mother changed her mind and told Judy that she had to spend the money on new clothes for school. Judy was disappointed and decided to go to the concert anyway. She bought a ticket and told her mother that she had only been able to save five dollars. That Saturday she went to the performance and told her mother that she was spending the day with a friend. A week passed without her mother finding out. Judy then told her older sister, Louise, that she had gone to the performance and had lied to her mother about it. Louise wonders whether to tell their mother what Judy did.

**PROMPT:** Louise should tell her mother that Judy lied about the money.

<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
<b>Claim:</b>	<b>Claim:</b>
<b>Clarification:</b>	<b>Clarification:</b>
<b>Evidence Statement 1:</b>	<b>Evidence Statement 2:</b>

**Topic: "Taking a Stand" – Argumentative Writing and Moral Dilemmas II**

**Moral Dilemma #2**

Joe is a fourteen-year-old boy who wanted to go to camp very much. His father promised him he could go if he saved up the money for it himself. So Joe worked hard at his paper route and saved up the forty dollars it cost to go to camp, and a little more besides. But just before camp was going to start, his father changed his mind. Some of his friends decided to go on a special fishing trip, and Joe's father was short of the money it would cost. So he told Joe to give him the money he had saved from the paper route. Joe didn't want to give up going to camp, so he thinks of refusing to give his father the money.

<i>PROMPT: Joe should refuse to give his father the money.</i>	
<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
<b>Claim:</b>	<b>Claim:</b>
<b>Clarification:</b>	<b>Clarification:</b>
<b>Evidence Statement 1:</b>	<b>Evidence Statement 2:</b>

**Topic: “Taking a Stand” – Argumentative Writing and Moral Dilemmas II**

**Prompt:** Many parents give children a weekly or monthly allowance regardless of their behavior because they believe an allowance regardless of their behavior teaches children to be financially responsible. Other parents only give children an allowance as a reward for completing chores or when they have behaved properly. Explain what you think parents should do and why.

<i>Prompt: Parents should give children a weekly or monthly allowance regardless of their behavior.</i>	
Agree	Disagree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Claim:</b>	<b>Claim:</b>
<b>Clarification:</b>	<b>Clarification:</b>
<b>CHOOSE ONE CLAIM AND WRITE TWO EVIDENCE STATEMENTS FOR IT BELOW:</b>	
<b>Evidence Statement 1:</b>	<b>Evidence Statement 2:</b>

**Topic: “Taking a Stand” – Argumentative Writing and Moral Dilemmas II**

**Prompt:** Many junior high and high schools around the country now require students to spend a certain number of hours each term doing volunteer work or community service. Some people believe this is an excellent idea that promotes good citizenship and cultivates compassion. Others feel that forced volunteerism is not volunteerism at all. How do you feel about this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

<i><b>Prompt:</b> Junior and high schools should require students to do community service.</i>	
<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
<b>Claim:</b>	<b>Claim:</b>
<b>Clarification:</b>	<b>Clarification:</b>
<b>CHOOSE ONE CLAIM AND WRITE TWO EVIDENCE STATEMENTS FOR IT BELOW:</b>	
<b>Evidence Statement 1:</b>	<b>Evidence Statement 2:</b>



**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:** Read the moral dilemma printed below. Then in the outline write a claim, clarification, and 2 pieces of evidence to support your claim. Finally, use the outline to create a paragraph in response to this prompt.

**Toulmin Paragraph Outline**

**PROMPT:** Most states allow people to get a driver's license at the age of 16. Some people feel that 16 is much too young for the responsibility that comes with driving a car and that teenagers should not be allowed to drive until the age of 18. In your opinion, at what age should people be allowed to drive, and why?

<i>Prompt: Teenagers should be allowed to drive at the age of 16.</i>	
<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
<b>Claim:</b>	<b>Claim:</b>
<b>Clarification:</b>	<b>Clarification:</b>

