

Literature– Unit 7 Lesson 6

Do Now

Directions: Read the article taken from the FindLaws and respond to the questions that follow:

An Overview of Gun Laws in the United States

Gun owners, dealers, and collectors must follow state and federal laws if they wish possess a firearm, or run a business selling guns. The [Second Amendment](#) of the U.S. Constitution says that "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Gun owners often cite the Second Amendment when arguing against state or local gun law restrictions.

Infringe: When you infringe upon someone's right, you do not let him do something he believes he has the legal right to do

Federal Gun Laws

Federal law restricts who can own, possess, or sell a gun. The [National Firearms Act](#) makes it illegal for a person to have a firearm that is not specifically registered to them. While President, Bill Clinton passed the Brady Act to that gave even more specific guidelines for who can and who cannot own a gun. Under the [Brady Act](#), you cannot have a gun for personal or business if you:

1. Were convicted of a crime punishable by being in prison for more than one year;
2. Are a fugitive from justice;
3. Are addicted to, or illegally use, any controlled substance;
4. Have been ruled mentally defective by a court, or are committed to a mental institution;
5. Are an illegal [citizen] living in the United States unlawfully;
6. Received a dishonorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces;
7. Renounced your U.S. citizenship, if you are a U.S. citizen;
8. Have a court restraining order that prevents you from seeing or communicating with your 'intimate partner,' your partner's child, or children; or
9. Were convicted of domestic violence in any court of a misdemeanor.

1. As it is used in context, the word cite is most closely means
 - a. See
 - b. Quote
 - c. Disagree
 - d. Suggest
2. Reason number 8 under the Brady act is best paraphrased as
 - a. Were put in jail for a crime against a child
 - b. Have a wife, husband, or child that does not like you
 - c. Have gotten in legal trouble for treating someone you are close to badly
 - d. Have gone to court before
3. According to the Brady Act, which one of the following people CANNOT buy a gun?
 - a. Someone under the age of 18
 - b. Someone who spent six months in jail
 - c. Someone living in the United States without permission
 - d. Someone who takes medication given to them by a doctor

Types of Evidence

VALID EVIDENCE

MOST _____ LEAST

Model: Same Sex Marriage Article**(1) The “Defense” of Marriage is a Defense of Valueless Tradition****The “Defense” of Marriage is a Defense of Valueless Tradition**

No one should be denied the opportunity to choose his or her husband or wife. Choosing who to spend your life with is a basic human right and deeply personal decision. In our past, the government has denied people the right to marry one another in order to make them feel less than human or “wrong”. For example, once, two slaves could not get married, nor could an interracial couple. Many families that our society readily accepts and embraces today were once not able to legally marry. These families included interracial couples like Mildred and Richard Loving. Even though they were a man and a woman hoping to get married, they could not in their home state of Virginia because Mildred was black and Richard was white. The couple took the case to the supreme court and were finally allowed to marry in 1967. The Supreme Court declared antimiscegenation laws illegal in *Loving v. Virginia*, which proves that we should not just accept whatever the law defines as marriage. While not everyone in our community wishes to marry, everyone deserves the freedom to make this choice.

(2) Federal Rights and Protections Granted to Married Couples

There are 1,138 benefits, rights and protections provided to married couples. Since the Defense of Marriage Act defines "marriage" as a legal union between one man and one woman, same sex couples cannot receive any of these benefits. Therefore, even if same-sex couples are considered married by the state they live in, they are not allowed to receive benefits from the government. These benefits include Social Security after a spouse has passed away. All working Americans give money to Social Security through the taxes they pay. Once they have retired, they receive the money back in monthly payments. If you are married, when your spouse dies, you can still receive his/her Social Security benefits. However, same-sex couples cannot receive this same benefit because they are not considered “married.” Professors of economics at Columbia agree that this discrimination allows gives straight couples more economic opportunities at an older age and possibly can lead to a longer life span. This discrimination then interferes with each American’s right to life, as promised by our Constitution.

What mistake did Ms. _____ make?

What key question helps Ms. _____
EVALUATE the author’s evidence and appeal?

Name: _____

7th Grade Literature

February 12, 2013

SWBAT evaluate authors use of evidence and appeal by comparing authors use of valid evidence

Show us what you know: Complete the blank portions of the EBQ below:

Which author best supports the claim that same-sex marriage is a legal right?

The author of article _____ best supports the claim that same-sex marriage is a legal right by using more _____ evidence and _____: the type of appeal that makes it more difficult to argue against. Both authors support same sex marriage, however one author supports the claim less successfully because she uses a lot of _____ while the other author uses many facts. Because it is easier to disagree with _____ than logic, the author of article _____ is more effective at this claim.

Practice

When Will America Wake Up to Gun Violence?

Last night's shooting rampage at a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, was a nightmare. Twelve people have been killed, with many more injured. According to law enforcement officials, the weapons were purchased legally by the suspect in the last six months.

Even when legislation passed during the Clinton years in the form of the Brady bill, requiring background checks at the time of gun purchases, or the assault weapons ban, the NRA succeeded in injecting gaping loopholes into the laws. Who needs to go through a background check at Walmart when you can get your gun without one at the local gun show or from some shady figure on a street corner? The NRA then asks how "gun control" doesn't work. But it can.

Consider what happened in Australia after a crazed gunman killed 35 people in Port Arthur, Tasmania, in 1996. The Australian federal government persuaded all states and territories to implement tough new gun control laws. Under the National Firearms Agreement (NFA), firearms legislation was tightened throughout the country. National registration of guns was imposed and it became illegal to hold certain long guns that might be used in mass shootings. The gun ban was backed up by a mandatory buy-back program that substantially reduced gun possession in Australia. The effect was that both gun suicides and homicides (as well as total suicides and homicides) fell. Importantly, while there were 13 mass shootings in Australia during the period of 1979--96, there have been none in the sixteen years since. In 1996, then-Prime Minister John Howard stated that the "whole scheme is designed to reduce the number of guns in the community and make Australia a safer place to live." The Australian attorney general praised the cooperation and responsibility of Australian firearms owners with the gun controls and buy-back, saying, "they have been paid cash for their firearms - giving our nation a welcome Christmas gift by removing unnecessary high-powered firearms from the community. It offers all of us the real chance of a safer festive season and New Year."

- 1. This author primarily uses (logos/ethos/pathos) and (valid evidence/opinion/rhetoric) to support his opinion.**
 - a. Box the lines that support the type of evidence; star the lines that support the type of evidence.

SWBAT evaluate authors use of evidence and appeal by comparing authors use of valid evidence

What Everyone Needs to Know about Gun Control and the Second Amendment

by Juan Williams (taken from FoxNews.com)

Despite what conservatives are now saying, President Obama has the right to and should create new gun control laws. A USA Today poll taken last month found that 92 percent of Americans favor a background check for every gun purchase in the United States and only 7 percent opposed it. According to the same poll, 62 percent say they approved a ban on the sale of guns that hold more than 10 bullets while 35 percent disapprove. Another poll from earlier this week found similar results. According to Pew, 85% of Americans, a roughly equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans, favor universal background checks on gun buyers including at gun shows. The survey also found that preventing people with mental illness from buying guns is backed by 80% of Americans, including 86% of Republicans and 78% of Democrats.

After the shooting in Aurora, Colorado this summer, a poll taken of NRA members found that 74 percent of NRA members and 87 percent of non-NRA gun owners support background checks on every gun sale. The poll also found that 79 percent of NRA members and 80 percent of non-NRA gun owners support requiring gun store owners to perform background checks on all employees.

To recap: the president is reportedly considering universal background checks, closing the gun show loophole, banning high-capacity guns, banning some military-type assault weapons and restricting the sale of guns to the mentally ill.

2. This author primarily uses (logos/ethos/pathos) and (valid evidence/opinion/rhetoric) to support his opinion.

- a. Box the lines that support the type of evidence; star the lines that support the type of evidence.

Write your assertion, context, and evidence:

Which author best supports the claim that President Obama should pass gun control laws?

Exit Ticket**DIRECTIONS: Read the articles below and then respond to the following question:****1) Battle Universal Healthcare**

Just because Americans are uninsured doesn't mean they can't receive health care. Nonprofits and government-run hospitals provide services to those who don't have insurance, and according to Hospital contracts, it is illegal to refuse emergency medical service to any individual who comes to an emergency room. While uninsured Americans are a problem because they cost the system money, it is a lie to say they do not have health care. This issue shouldn't be as emotional since there are plenty of government and private medical practices designed to help the uninsured. It is illegal to refuse emergency treatment, even if the patient is an illegal immigrant.

Additionally, Healthy people who take care of themselves will have to pay for the burden of those who smoke, are obese, etc. Universal health care means the costs will be spread to all Americans, regardless of your health or your need for medical care, which is fundamentally unfair. Your health is greatly determined by your lifestyle. Those who exercise, eat right, don't smoke, don't drink, etc. have far fewer health problems than the smoking couch potatoes. Some healthy people don't even feel the need for health insurance since they never go to the doctor. Why should we punish those that live a healthy lifestyle and reward the ones who don't?

2) Universal Healthcare Isn't worth our Freedom *taken the Wall Street Journal*
By **THOMAS SZASZ**

People who seek the services of auto mechanics want car repair, not "auto care." Similarly, most people who seek the services of medical doctors want body repair, not "health care." We own our cars, are responsible for the cost of maintaining them, and decide what needs fixing based partly on balancing the seriousness of the problem against the cost of fixing it. The idea of a Universal health-care system rests on the idea that, although we own our bodies, the community or state [should] be responsible for paying the cost of repairing them.

But what is health care? Healthcare is receiving a service for a medical problem. The concept of Universal health-care service rests on the idea that if an individual has a medical problem, it received by accident or bad luck. For example, leukemia, lupus, and brain cancer are unwanted happenings that the patient cannot control. What about injuries people bring upon themselves through reckless and careless actions? Are we going to count obesity, smoking, a head injury because of drunk driving as the same kinds of diseases? Many Americans would willingly pay for insurance to protect themselves against the extremely high cost of treating their own diseases. But how many Americans would willingly pay for insurance to protect them from the expenses of treating someone else's depression?

The idea that every life is infinitely precious and therefore everyone deserves the same kind of medical care is a fine religious sentiment and moral ideal. As political and economic policy, it is [unrealistic and foolish]. The first requirement for better health care for all is not equal health care for everyone but educational and economic advancement for everyone.

Name: _____

7th Grade Literature

February 12, 2013

SWBAT evaluate authors use of evidence and appeal by comparing authors use of valid evidence

Which author best supports the claim that the United States should NOT use Universal Healthcare?

In your response be sure to include:

- An assertion that states which article better support the claim because of the evidence/appeal they used
- Context that explaining the main idea of the article
- Evidence that shows the type of appeal and evidence state
- Analysis that explains how that evidence you selected shows the type of appeal/evidence you identified as more persuasive
- A concluding sentence

Below (0)	Emerging (2-3)	Approaching (4-6)	Mostly Meets(7-8)	Meets (9-10)
No clear assertion complete	-Only assertion and evidence CFS	- Assertion, evidence, context	Assertion, evidence, context, attempt at analysis	ALL CFS included

Name: _____

7th Grade Literature

February 12, 2013

SWBAT evaluate authors use of evidence and appeal by comparing authors use of valid evidence