

## Argument Essay Instructions

1. Choose which topic you would like to write about:
  - a. *Should kids play football, or is it too dangerous?*
  - b. *Should you clone your pet?*
  - c. *Can fame and fortune make you happy?*
  - d. *Should we ban competitive eating?*
2. Pick up your topic's corresponding text set.
3. Complete a close reading of the texts.
4. Determine which side of the argument you agree with.
5. Complete a graphic organizer.
6. Draft your essay (at least five paragraphs: Introduction, Opposing View with Refute, Reason 1, Reason 2, Conclusion). Put it into Utah Compose.
7. Edit your essay. Have a peer edit your essay. Have an adult edit your essay.
8. Revise your essay.
9. Finalize and turn in your essay. The complete packet should be stapled together in this order: Final draft, rough draft, graphic organizer, text set.
10. Make sure your essay is also finalized and submitted on Utah Compose.

### Argument Essay Due Dates

**November 16/17:** Begin in class. Preview argument essay writing. Should be able to choose topic, read texts, select a side, and find an additional article. Whatever isn't finished in class is homework.

**November 18/21:** Complete graphic organizer in class. Whatever isn't finished in class is homework.

**November 22/23:** Graphic organizer due at beginning of class. Begin drafting essay in class. Continue working on rough draft of essay as homework.

**November 28/29:** Complete rough draft in class. What isn't finished is homework. We will peer edit next class, so your rough draft must be done.

**November 30/December 1:** Writer's Workshop. We will peer edit in class, so make sure your rough draft is complete. Revise and finalize your essay as homework.

**December 2/5:** Final draft (hard copy, typed and formatted) due at the beginning of class. Final packet should be stapled in this order: Final Draft, Rough Draft, Graphic Organizer, Text Set. Final draft should also be submitted in Utah Compose.

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# Should Kids Play Football?

More young athletes are saying America's favorite sport is just too dangerous. **By Jennifer Shotz**

**F**or as long as he could remember, 13-year-old Isaiah Kahut had a dream: to play high school football. He'd dreamed of it in kindergarten, throwing a football with his dad. He'd dreamed of it in elementary school, playing in his town's youth flag football league. Now, finally, his dream was about to come true.

It was the summer before ninth grade, and Isaiah was at football camp, preparing for his first season as a running back for Skyview High School in Vancouver, Washington.

The Skyview Storm went to state championships twice. Many former players went on to play on college teams. Isaiah wondered: Might he one day receive a scholarship to play college ball?

But on the second day of camp, his plans came crashing down around him. He was running with the ball when he was tackled. His head smacked the turf—*hard*.

The moment he got up, he knew something wasn't right. "I could see and hear," he remembers, "but I couldn't comprehend what was happening around me."



Isaiah Kahut  
in middle  
school

Headaches and nausea soon set in. His parents rushed him to the hospital, where doctors diagnosed him with a severe concussion—a brain injury resulting from a blow to the head. For two weeks, Isaiah had to rest in a dark, quiet room so his brain could heal. Then, for two miserable months, he felt foggy and had trouble answering questions.

Terrible as it was, Isaiah's injury was not unusual. Every year, tens of thousands of youth-football players get concussions.\* Most return to the field after they heal. But as Isaiah slowly recovered from his injury,

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GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO.COM (GOOTBAH); COURTESY OF JEN EICHLER (ISAIAH KAHUT)

he began to think hard about the risks of the game he loved. After much soul-searching and talking to his family and doctor, he made an agonizing decision that is becoming more common in youth football.

Isaiah decided to quit football. For good.

### A Football Crisis

Football is America's most popular sport. Some 2.5 million kids play the game—often in leagues that start as early as first grade. In many towns, high school football is the heart of the community, with sellout crowds turning out on Friday nights to cheer on the team. College football brings in more than \$3 billion a year, the NFL rakes in more than \$9 billion. And across the nation, star players of all ages are worshipped as heroes.

But America's favorite sport is in crisis: An increasing number of kids are choosing not to play. According to ESPN, enrollment in Pop Warner, the largest youth-football league in the U.S., dropped 9.5 percent from 2010 to 2012. Because of concussions, many considered the game just too risky.

Football has been a rough sport since it was first played in the 1800s. Until recently, knocks to the head were considered just part of the game. But today, we know those knocks can be devastating.

A single concussion, if treated properly, will likely heal without any long-term effects. Repeated concussions are another story.

Football players of all ages have suffered permanent brain damage from repeated concussions—even when they've given their brains time to heal (which can take months). If a player's brain has not healed, even a small jolt can cause permanent damage—or death. In milder cases, athletes can be left with lifelong pain, memory lapses, aggression, depression, personality changes, and many other issues.

### Can Football Be Safe?

So is it time for us to give up our most beloved sport? Some fans point out that injuries can happen in any sport, from soccer to skateboarding. If we got rid of football, where would we draw the line? On the other hand, no sport has more concussions than football. Several NFL players have stated that

the game is so risky they wouldn't let their own kids play.

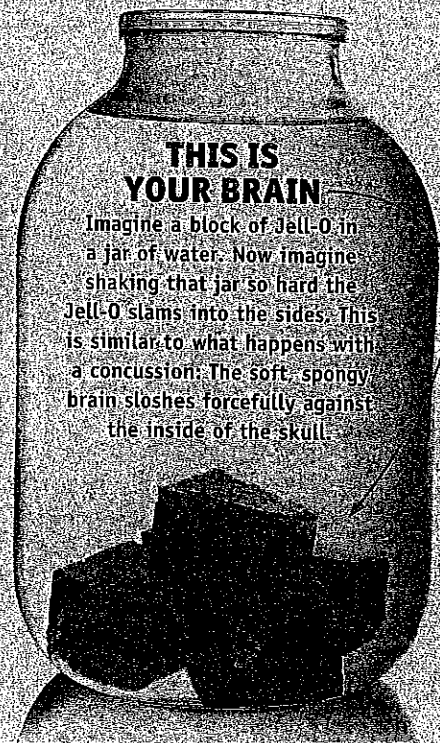
Yet with all the public attention on the concussion crisis, football seems to be getting safer every day. For example, Pop Warner has limited the amount of practice time that includes tackling. (Most concussions sustained in football happen during tackles.) Nationwide programs are training coaches, parents, and athletes to recognize and treat concussions. All 50 states have passed laws requiring a medical professional to sign off before an injured player can go back on the field. Even the NFL has altered some of its rules.

But do these measures go far enough? Some believe we should ban tackling. A few schools, like Isaiah's middle school, have already done so. Die-hard fans, however, say that football just wouldn't be football without tackling.

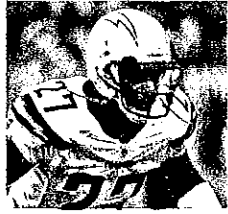
### An American Tradition

Of course, there are many wonderful aspects of football. Young athletes learn discipline, focus, teamwork—skills that will help them be successful later in life. Players often form lasting friendships, and they get to participate in an American tradition that is a major part of our culture. They also reap the benefits of being physically active.

Football can even help with college. For many students, an athletic scholarship is the only way they can afford



\*MORE THAN 147,000 CONCUSSIONS OCCURRED IN YOUTH FOOTBALL DURING THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR, AS REPORTED IN THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS-RELATED INJURY SURVEILLANCE STUDY.



In 2013, Paul Oliver (left) of the San Diego Chargers committed suicide. An autopsy showed he had chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). CTE is a brain disease found in people with a history of brain trauma, such as concussions. It can only be diagnosed after death. Eight NFL players who committed suicide have since been found to have had CTE. The NFL has said one in three retired players will likely develop concussion-related brain disease.

to go. Football offers the most full scholarships of all college sports.

Then again, college players often make football, rather than learning, their first priority—which puts them at a disadvantage when they look for jobs. (Few college players make it to the NFL.) So the

question we have to ask is: Do the rewards of football outweigh the risks?

### Life After Football

Isaiah, now 17, is confident he made the right decision. Since quitting football, he has **thrived**.

He runs track and went to state championships; he plans to run in college. He stays connected to football by photographing games for his school yearbook.

He still gets headaches once in a while, but for the most part, his symptoms have faded. "I understand what could have happened if I'd stayed on the team," Isaiah says. "Brain damage could have affected my entire life."

And that made walking away the right choice. ●

# Should Kids Play Football?

Identify evidence from the article that supports each side of this debate. Write the information on the lines below.

## YES

**THE REWARDS OUTWEIGH THE RISKS.**

- 1 Football builds important skills like teamwork.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

## NO

**IT'S WAY TOO DANGEROUS.**

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

**EXAMINE POINTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DEBATE—AS WELL AS YOUR OWN BELIEFS**—and decide what you think. State your opinion in one sentence below. This can become the thesis statement for an argument essay.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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# Can Fame and Fortune Make You Happy?

Being a celebrity seems like a dream come true.  
So why are many young stars so miserable? **BY MACKENZIE CARRO**

**I**s Jennifer Lawrence happy? She certainly *looks* happy, gliding down the red carpet, surrounded by eager photographers and starstruck fans. And why wouldn't she be? She spends her days doing what she loves. She earns more money from one movie than most people make in a lifetime. Plus, she gets amazing perks, like free clothes from top designers, front-row seats at prestigious award shows, and trips around the world.

But wait. If being a celebrity is so great, why are so many of them, well, kind of messed up? Take Justin Bieber. By age 16, he was cranking out chart-topping hits and earning millions of dollars on sold-out concert tours. Lately, however, it seems like the 22-year-old has been spending most of his time apologizing for his bad behavior. He's been arrested for drunk driving and charged with vandalism, and he has bailed on multiple shows. Or look at Shia LaBeouf. Once a star of hit movies like *Transformers*, LaBeouf is now known mostly for bizarre public meltdowns and struggles with drugs and alcohol.



## Celebrity Lifestyle

Turns out, the happiness that comes from fame is **fleeting**. "It's the kind of happiness you get when you buy a new purse," explains Donna Rockwell, a psychologist who specializes in celebrity mental health. "That kind of happiness fades within no time."

So what *does* bring lasting happiness? According to a study at

the University of Rochester in New York, true happiness **derives** from having close relationships, time to focus on personal growth, and connections to your community. The celebrity lifestyle can make those things extremely difficult.

Celebrities *do* have friends, though, right?

Of course. But according to Rockwell, it can be difficult for

CAROLYN BRISDALE  
ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/PENCIL

# What Do You Think?

Can fame and fortune make you happy?

Go back to the article and find arguments that support each side of the debate. Write them on the lines below.

a celebrity to trust others and to make and keep true friends. Stars have to wonder if their “friends” like them for who they are or for what they have.

## A Lot of Stress

To outsiders, constant attention might seem glamorous. In reality, though, it brings an enormous amount of stress.

Beyoncé has said that though she likes attention when she's onstage, she'd be happier if she could “cut it off” when she isn't performing and just enjoy her life. In an interview with *Vanity Fair*, Lawrence said that simply stepping outside her front door gives her anxiety. Indeed, famous people can't so much as walk their dogs or tie their shoes without being gawked at, photographed, tweeted about, or Instagrammed.

## Holding Steady

Clearly, not all stars crumble under the pressures of fame. Selena Gomez, Ariana Grande, Will Smith, and Justin Timberlake—all of whom became famous as teens—seem to be doing fine. Lawrence is holding steady, too, though she has had to deal with a lot of drama. Her phone has been hacked and her looks and eating habits have been criticized in the media.

So perhaps you should consider yourself lucky that your big night out is a slumber party with your best friends and that your biggest fan is your grandma. ●

## YES

Bring on the cameras.

1 Being a star comes with amazing perks.

2

3

## NO

It makes people nuts.

1

2

3

EXAMINE POINTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DEBATE—AS WELL AS YOUR OWN BELIEFS—and decide what you think. State your opinion in one sentence below. This can be your thesis statement for an essay on this topic.

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# Should You Clone Your Pet?

With the help of modern science, some pet owners are bringing their pets back from the dead.

**H**e was part of your family for as long as you can remember. He understood you better than anyone else. He was your biggest fan. And now, sadly, your beloved dog Scruff has died.

Your mom has offered to buy you a new dog—a dog just like Scruff. But you don't want a new dog. And you certainly don't want a dog *like* Scruff. You want Scruff.

Thanks to a scientific process called cloning, you can have him.

Sort of.

## Science Fiction?

This is how cloning works: A scientist would use Scruff's **genetic** material to make a cluster of cells called an **embryo**. That embryo would be implanted in the womb of a female dog, where it would hopefully grow just as it would in a normal pregnancy. The dog would give birth to a Scruff **clone**.

This might sound like science fiction, but scientists have been



cloning all kinds of animals for years. Researchers use clones of mice, pigs, and other animals to study human diseases and search for cures. A lab in South Korea supplies the police with cloned service dogs that sniff out bombs and drugs. The same lab is currently working on cloning endangered and extinct animals.

Is it surprising that people now want to use this science to clone their **deceased** pets?

Companies that offer pet-cloning services say cloning is a way to honor a beloved animal and to ease the grief of losing a pet. But cloning has a dark side. For every successful clone, there are dozens of failures. In the early days, cloned animals often had shorter life spans, birth defects, and other health problems. Most clones had to be put down. Now, improved cloning technology has greatly lowered the risk of many health issues, but there are

ROBERT MATSON

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# What Do You Think?

**Is pet cloning OK?** Go back to the article to find arguments that support each side of this debate. Write the information on the lines below.



still concerns. Plus, implanting an embryo is an invasive procedure that puts the surrogate mothers through enormous stress.

Then there is the fact that a clone won't be an exact copy of the original. That's because an animal's **temperament** is determined not only by its **genes**, but also by its life experiences. In other words, each clone has a unique personality.

Just ask Sandra and Ralph Fisher. They owned a bull named Chance, an unusually gentle animal who posed for photos with kids. When Chance died, the Fishers were devastated. So they had him cloned, and Second Chance was born. Second Chance did not have the same mild **disposition**. In fact, he had a vicious streak. Second Chance attacked Ralph twice—almost killing him.

## Stuffed Scruff

Pet owners have ordered hundreds of clones, but not everyone believes pet cloning is OK. Animal-rights groups point to the thousands of shelters overflowing with dogs and cats in need of homes. Why not adopt one of these pets instead of forking over the tens of thousands of dollars it can cost to clone one animal?

There's always a third option for those who can't bear to part with their deceased pets: Have them stuffed. Pet taxidermy is far cheaper and less controversial than cloning.

And you'll save a fortune on dog food.

# YES

Where do I sign up?

1 Cloning is a way to keep my pet around.

2

3

# NO

It's totally twisted.

1

2

3

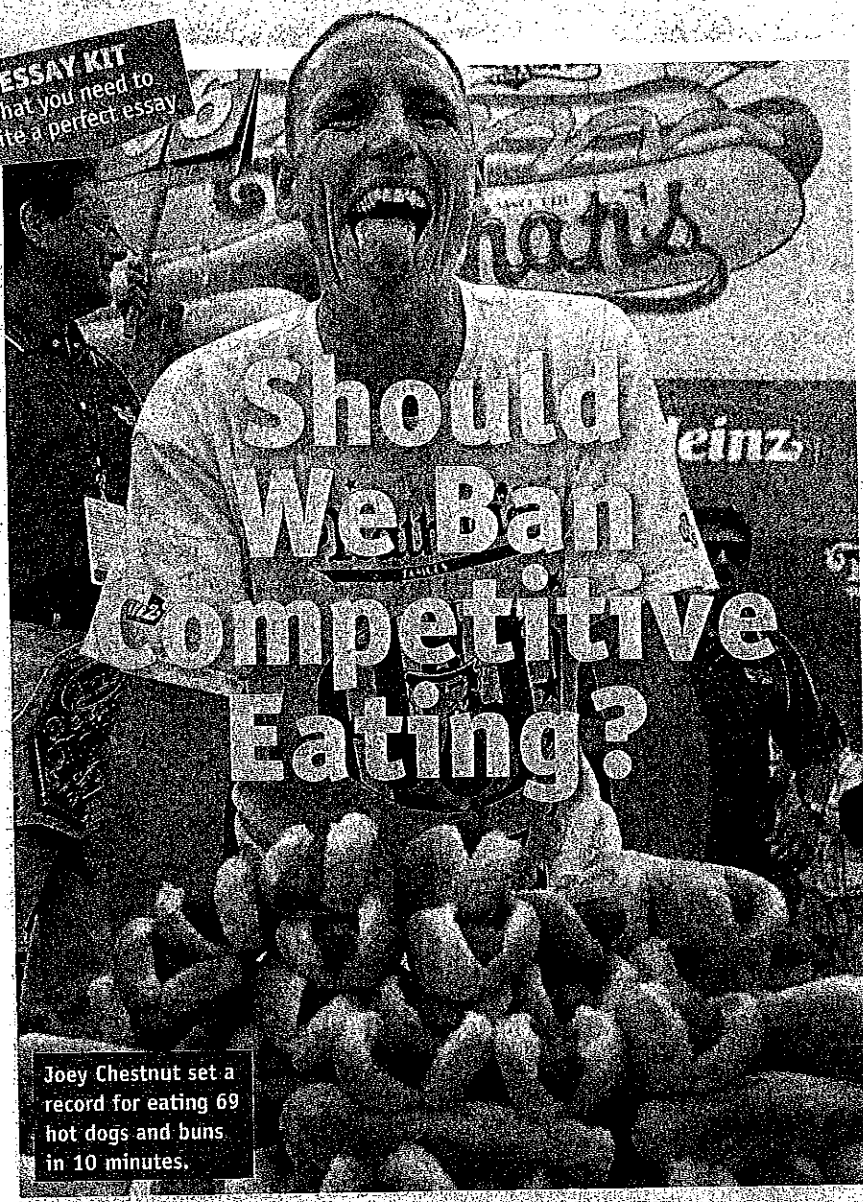
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Joey Chestnut set a record for eating 69 hot dogs and buns in 10 minutes.

## Puking. Choking. Wasting food. Is it time for this wacky tradition to end?

BY SARAH MCCARRY WITH ADEE BRAUN

**T**he clock is ticking: David Brunelli has just scarfed down a huge burger. Now all he has to do is polish off a pile of fries and a jug of water, and he could win this competition. The crowd roars excitedly as he furiously downs fistfuls of fries.

Suddenly, a stream of food spews from his mouth. Thinking fast, he cups his hands, catching the vomit,

and shoves it back in his mouth. He knows the rules: Puking means disqualification.

Welcome to the world of competitive eating.

Brunelli is part of a select group of competitors who vie for the glory of eating massive quantities of food as quickly as possible. In thousands of contests around the world each year, competitive eaters devour

everything from tubs of chili cheese fries to vats of baked beans.

Eating contests may seem like harmless fun, but they have a dark side—and some critics are saying it's time for them to stop.

### It's Tradition

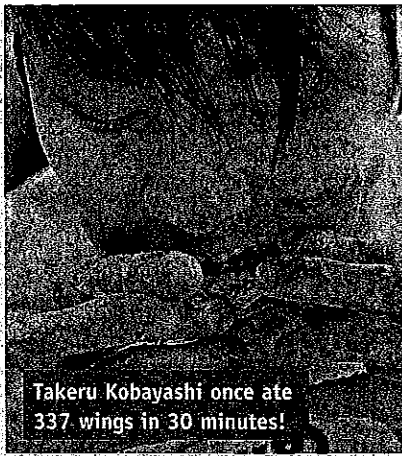
Shoving crazy amounts of food down our throats is nothing new. Gorging banquets were a regular part of ancient Roman culture. Meat-eating contests appear in Icelandic mythology from the 1200s. In the 1800s, some New York City politicians settled bets through eating challenges. Pie-eating contests have been a Fourth of July tradition for more than a century.

For pros like Brunelli, though, eating contests are more than tradition. They are a path to fame and fortune. Major League Eating (MLE), which oversees professional contests, doles out thousands of dollars in prize money each year. Winners can also earn big bucks in sponsorship deals. World-famous eater Takeru Kobayashi is reportedly worth a million dollars.

### Is It Safe?

But prize money does nothing to reduce the health risks of competitive eating, which include obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and severe stomach problems.

Competitive eating can even be life-threatening. In 1991, a man in Virginia suffered a stroke after eating 38 eggs in 29 seconds; in 2004, a Japanese woman choked



Takeru Kobayashi once ate 337 wings in 30 minutes!

to death during a rice cake-eating contest. In Florida, in 2012, a man died shortly after winning a cockroach- and worm-eating contest—leading a group of doctors to call for a ban on eating contests.

Fans of competitive eating are quick to point out that such tragedies are rare. Plus, they say, events sanctioned by the MLE are strictly regulated and always have medical personnel on hand.

### Here to Stay

In any event, the risk to

competitors is only part of the story. Nearly two-thirds of Americans are overweight, and competitive eating sets a terrible example by glamorizing overeating. And, in a world where 805 million people

go hungry every day, downing ridiculous quantities of food for entertainment seems not just wasteful but callous.

For now, though, it seems eating contests are here to stay. Last year, more than three million viewers tuned in to ESPN to watch Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest.

This year, new records have been set: Matt Stonie ate 182 strips of bacon in 5 minutes, breaking the world record.

What record will be broken next? Do you really want to find out? ●

# What Do You Think?

Should we ban competitive eating? Write evidence from the article to support each side of the debate.

## YES

### Ban competitive eating!

1 Competitive eating promotes wasting food.

2

3

## NO

### Competitive eating rocks!

1

2

3

**EXAMINE POINTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DEBATE—AS WELL AS YOUR OWN BELIEFS.** State your opinion in one sentence below. This can become the thesis statement for an argument essay.

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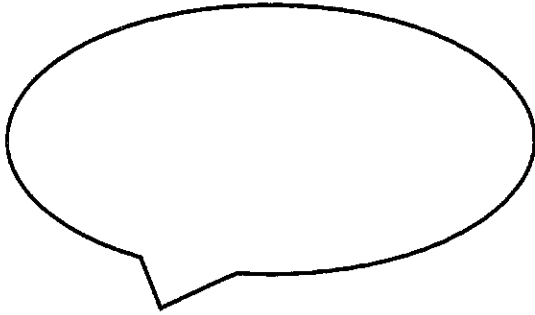
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# Here's what I think



The evidence supports what I think because...

This is the evidence that supports what I think...

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3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. \_\_\_\_\_  
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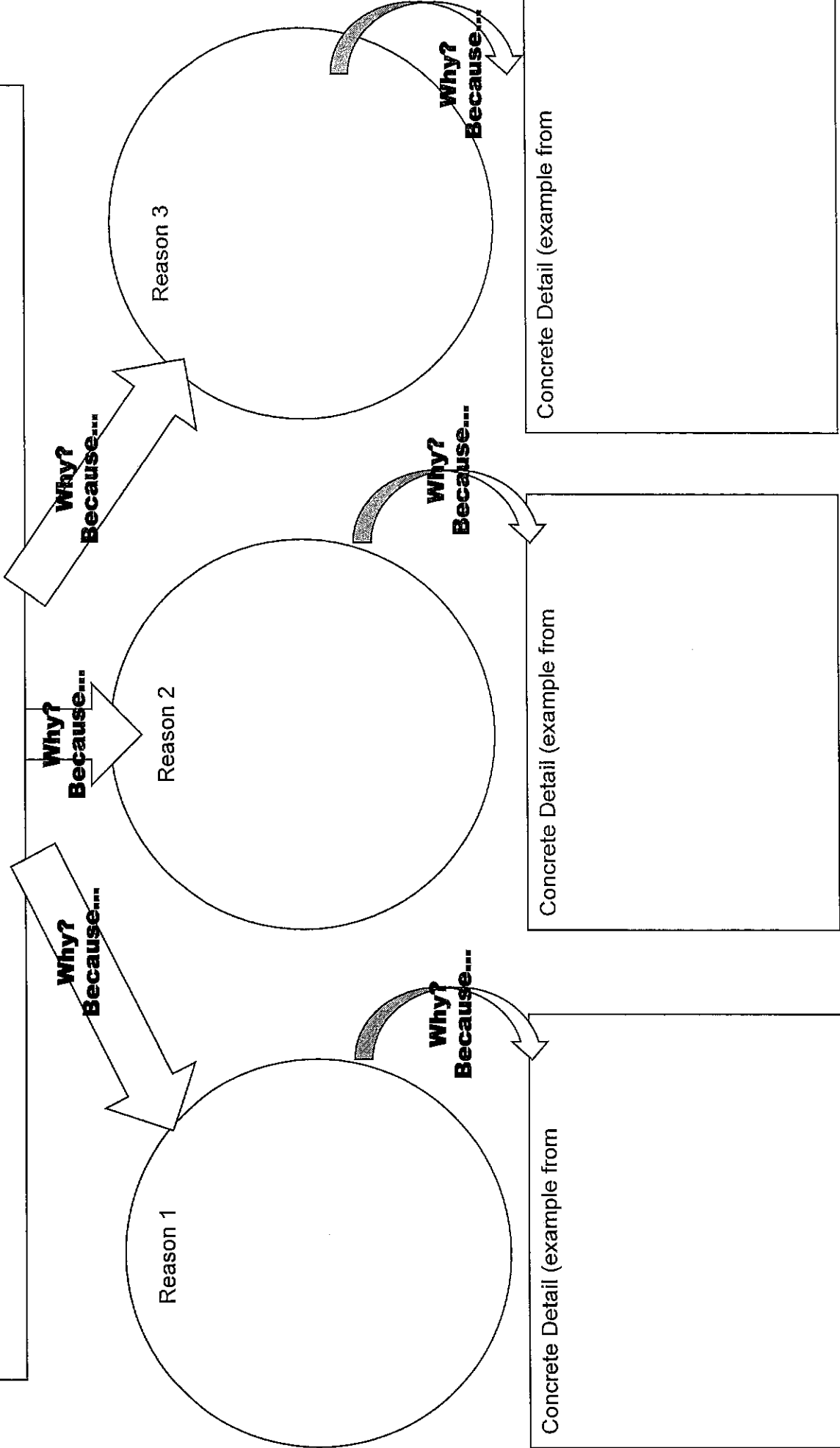
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Some people might think....

But they're wrong because....



Thesis:



Opposing View:

Wrong because ...

Refute:

THESIS:



TOPIC SENTENCE 1:

CD 1A

CD 1B



CM 1A  
CM 1A



CM 1B  
CM 1B

TOPIC SENTENCE 2:

CD 2A

CD 2B



CM 2A  
CM 2A



CM 2B  
CM 2B

TOPIC SENTENCE 3:

CD 3A

CD 3B



CM 3A  
CM 3A



CM 3B  
CM 3B

OPPOSING VIEW & REFUTE:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

## Argumentative Writing Outline

### INTRODUCTION

HOOK: \_\_\_\_\_

THESIS: \_\_\_\_\_

### BODY (4 paragraphs)

TOPIC SENTENCE 1: \_\_\_\_\_

CONCRETE DETAIL 1: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTARY A: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTARY B: \_\_\_\_\_

CONCRETE DETAIL 2: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTARY A: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTARY B: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC SENTENCE 2: \_\_\_\_\_

CONCRETE DETAIL 1: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTARY A: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTARY B: \_\_\_\_\_

CONCRETE DETAIL 2: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTARY A: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTARY B: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC SENTENCE 3: \_\_\_\_\_

CONCRETE DETAIL 1: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTARY A: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTARY B: \_\_\_\_\_

CONCRETE DETAIL 2: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTARY A: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTARY B: \_\_\_\_\_

OPPOSING VIEW: \_\_\_\_\_

REFUTE: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Can be put before introduction, at the end before conclusion, or after introduction)*

CONCLUSION: \_\_\_\_\_



## What Should My Essay Contain?

<b>Thesis</b>	The main point of your paper – your argument, opinion, point of view, or perspective. Make sure that it is stated clearly.
<b>Topic Sentence (TS)</b>	A mini-thesis for the paragraph – the topic of the body paragraph. The TS is one aspect of your thesis that you will talk about in that specific paragraph.
<b>Concrete Detail (CD)</b>	Quotes, statistics, or summary from a direct source (like the novel you are writing about, the article you are using, etc.). Make sure that concrete details are properly cited.
<b>Commentary (CM)</b>	Analysis, interpretation, or evaluation of your Concrete Detail. In your commentary, you show how your concrete detail supports your thesis. <b>Make sure that your commentary is YOURS. You should not simply rephrase or summarize your CD as CM... it should be unique and original!</b> If a reader can point to what you are saying in the text, that is CD, NOT CM.

## What are the Proper Ratios?

You should strive for the following ratios of Commentary to Concrete Details:

Subject	Concrete Detail	Pieces of Commentary
English Language Arts	1	at least 2
History	2	1
Science	at least 2	1

## Argument Essay Rubric

Category	4 - Above	3 - On	2 - Approaching	1 - Below	0 - Absent
<b>Ideas &amp; Content</b>	There is one clear, well-focused argument. The main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information.	The main argument stands out, but the supporting information is general.	The main argument is somewhat clear, but there is need for more supporting information.	The main argument is not clear. There is only a seemingly random collection of information and ideas.	This element is missing.
<b>Argument &amp; Opposing View</b>	Argument is well reasoned and supported. Opposing View is addressed and countered.	Argument is adequately reasoned and supported. Opposing View is addressed and countered.	Argument lacks reason and support. Opposing View is addressed, but not sufficiently countered.	Difficult to identify argument. No reasons or support. Opposing View isn't really addressed or countered.	Major components are missing.
<b>Organization &amp; Sequencing</b>	The introduction includes an effective hook. Reasons are placed in a logical order. The way they are presented effectively persuades the reader. There is a clear call to action.	The introduction includes a hook. Reasons are placed in a logical order, but the way in which they are presented is not entirely effective. There is a call to action.	The introduction presents the argument, but does not make the reader want to read more. Some reasons are not in a logical order, which distracts the reader. Weak call to action.	The introduction is not clear. Many reasons are not in a logical or expected order. Overall, the writing is disorganized. Weak or no call to action.	impossible to follow.
<b>Sentence Fluency &amp; Structure</b>	All sentences are well constructed. Each body paragraph has at least five sentences. Every paragraph have sentences that vary in length.	Most sentences are well constructed. Body paragraphs have at least five sentences. Almost all paragraphs have sentences that vary in length.	Most sentences are well constructed, but have similar structure. Body paragraphs have less than five sentences. Only some sentences vary in length.	Sentences lack structure and are fragments or run-ons. Body paragraphs have less than five sentences. Very few sentences vary in length.	Sentence structure incorrect most of the time.
<b>Voice &amp; Word Choice</b>	Writer uses academic language and phrases. Choice and placement of words is accurate, natural, and not forced.	Writer uses academic language and phrases, but occasionally, the vocabulary is used incorrectly or is overdone.	Writer uses words that accurately communicate his/her argument, but writing lacks academic language.	Writer uses limited vocabulary that does not communicate the argument effectively or capture the reader's interest.	Word choice inappropriate for audience/purpose. No variation, no academic language.
<b>Conventions</b>	Writer makes no errors in capitalization or punctuation, so the paper is exceptionally easy to read. Writer makes no errors in spelling or grammar that distracts the reader from the content.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in capitalization and/or punctuation, but the paper is still easy to read. Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar and/or spelling that distracts the reader from the content of the paper.	Writer makes a few errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and interrupt the flow. Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar and/or spelling that distract the reader from the content of the paper.	Writer makes several errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and greatly interrupt the flow. Writer makes more than four errors in grammar and/or spelling that distract the reader from the content of the paper.	More mistakes than not.
<b>Presentation</b>	Paper is neatly written or typed with no distracting corrections.	Paper is neatly written or typed with 1-2 distracting corrections (ex. messy erasers, words written over or crossed out)	The writing is generally readable, but it is difficult for the reader to figure out what some of the words say.	Many words are unreadable or there are several distracting corrections.	Unprofessional and/or unorganized.

**Comments:**