**Argument Essay – Affecting Change**

***School Issues***

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”*

*– Nelson Mandela*

Writing can be a powerful way to affect change. For the purpose of an argument essay and in order to affect change, you need to take a stance on a controversial issue. Throughout this unit we will have looked at the different elements in argument essays. Now it’s time to put your knowledge to use. You will be writing an argumentative essay in hopes of affecting change. The purpose for the essay is up to you; however the topic needs to be a controversial and related to a school issue. Please make sure to choose something appropriate.

**Your essay should be in the following format: (P.S. NEEDS TO BE 2-3 Pgs.)**

Paragraph 1-Introduction

* Hook the reader
* Introduce topic
* Claim with three pieces of evidence stated (claim must be underlined)

Paragraph 2

* First piece of evidence with reason/warrant (evidence is italicized, warrant is bolded)

Paragraph 3

* Second piece of evidence with reason/warrant (evidence is italicized, warrant is bolded)

Paragraph 4

* Identify counter-argument (counter-argument must be underlined)
* Third piece of evidence with reason/warrant as a rebuttal (evidence is italicized, warrant is bolded)

Paragraph 5-Conclusion

* Wrap-up essay
* Leave reader thinking

[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjEtaP6kqzQAhVGMSYKHWLvDyQQjRwIBw&url=http://www.stopchasingpain.com/stages-of-change-living-the-mojo/&psig=AFQjCNHzs4AYTLUsBvAI1tts8ngWimUxaA&ust=1479346922761678)

**Name:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_**

8th Grade Argument Essay Rubric

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Advanced Proficient** | **Proficient** | **Not Proficient** |
| Introduction  UCS W 8:1 | \_\_\_\_/5 I can use narrative and story to hook my reader.  \_\_\_\_/5 I can introduce my topic by including at least three background sentences on the topic. | \_\_\_\_/4 I can hook my reader.  \_\_\_\_/4 I can introduce my topic by including one or two background sentences. | \_\_\_\_\_/0 I did not write a hook.  \_\_\_\_/0 I did not introduce my topic with background sentences. |
| Claim    UCS W 8.1 | \_\_\_\_\_/4 I can write a claim that is arguable.  \_\_\_\_\_/3 I can include my claim the last sentence of my introduction.  \_\_\_\_\_/3 I can underline my claim. | \_\_\_\_\_/3 I can write a claim.  \_\_\_\_\_/2 I can include my claim in my introduction but not as the last sentence.  \_\_\_\_\_/2 I did not underline my claim. | \_\_\_\_\_/0 I did not write a claim. (Must redo essay if there is no claim) |
| Evidence  UCS W 8.1 | \_\_\_\_/4 I can include three pieces of factual evidence.  \_\_\_\_/3 I can use evidence that relates to my claim.  \_\_\_\_/3 I can italicize my evidence | \_\_\_\_/3 I included one or two pieces of factual evidence.  \_\_\_\_/2 I did not italicize my evidence. | \_\_\_\_/0 I did not include factual evidence. (Must redo essay if there is no factual evidence) |
| Explanation  UCS W 8.1 | \_\_\_\_/7 I can show how my three pieces of evidence support my claim.  \_\_\_\_/3 I can put my explanation in bold. | \_\_\_\_\_/6 I can show how two pieces of evidence support my claim.  \_\_\_\_\_/2 I did not put my explanation in bold. | \_\_\_\_\_/0 I did not show how my evidence supported my claim. (Must redo essay if there is no warrant/reasons) |
| Transitions  UCS W | \_\_\_\_\_/5 I can include transitions in all my paragraphs (except introduction)  \_\_\_\_/5 I can include topic sentences that transition to different topics for each of body paragraphs | \_\_\_\_/4 I can include transitions in most of my paragraphs  \_\_\_\_\_/4 I can include topic sentences for one or two of my body paragraphs. | \_\_\_\_\_/0 I did not use transitions  \_\_\_\_\_/0 I did not include topic sentences. |
| Counter-Argument  UCS W 8.1 | \_\_\_\_/4 I can address a reliable counter-argument in my third body-paragraph.  \_\_\_\_\_/5 I can include factual evidence that supports my counter-argument.  \_\_\_\_/1 I can underline my counter-argument | \_\_\_\_\_/3 I can address a counter-argument.  \_\_\_\_\_/0 I did not underline my counter-argument | \_\_\_\_/0 I did not address a counter-argument. |
| Conclusion  UCS W 8.1, W 8.4 | \_\_\_\_/7 I can conclude my essay by restating my claim in different words.  \_\_\_\_/3 I can leave the reader thinking about my topic in a new way. | \_\_\_\_\_/6 I can conclude my essay by restating my claim. | \_\_\_\_\_/0 I did not conclude my essay by restating my claim |
| Grammar  UCS L 8.1 | \_\_\_\_\_/5 I can capitalize, punctuate, and spell correctly.  \_\_\_\_\_/5 I can write sentences with fluency (complete and not run-on) | \_\_\_\_\_/4 I can capitalize, punctuate, and spell correctly most of the time.  \_\_\_\_\_/4 I can write sentences with fluency most of the time. | \_\_\_\_\_/3 I struggle with capitalization, punctuation, and spelling correctly.  \_\_\_\_/3 I struggle with sentence fluency. |
| Citations    UCS W 8.8 | \_\_\_\_\_/5 I can cite 3 sources using MLA format.  \_\_\_\_\_/5 I can include in-text citations using MLA format | \_\_\_\_\_/4 I can cite sources.  \_\_\_\_/4 I can include in-text citations. | \_\_\_\_\_/0 I did not cite sources. (Must redo essay, as this is plagiarizing.) |

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