

Student Name: _____

Class: _____

Due Date: _____

Introduction

Welcome to this homework sheet on developing argumentative writing skills! In this activity, you will learn how to write a well-structured two-sided argumentative essay. You will practice using transitional phrases, vocabulary, and evidence to support your claims. By the end of this activity, you will be able to write a clear and convincing argumentative essay.

Understanding Argumentative Writing

What is argumentative writing? Argumentative writing is a type of writing that presents a claim and supports it with evidence and reasoning. It involves considering multiple perspectives and evaluating evidence to make a convincing argument.

Read the following example of an argumentative essay:

"School uniforms are a good idea because they promote a sense of unity and professionalism among students. However, some people argue that uniforms restrict personal expression. I believe that the benefits of uniforms outweigh the drawbacks."

Identify the claim, counterclaim, and evidence in the example.

Writing a Claim

A claim is a statement that asserts a position or opinion on a topic. Write a claim on the following topic: "Should schools start later in the morning?"

Use the following sentence stem to help you write your claim:

"I believe that _____ because _____."

Writing a Counterclaim

A counterclaim is a statement that challenges or opposes the claim. Write a counterclaim to the claim you wrote on page 3.

Use the following sentence stem to help you write your counterclaim:

"Some people might argue that _____, but I believe that _____."

Using Transitional Phrases

Transitional phrases are words or phrases that connect ideas between sentences or paragraphs. Match the following transitional phrases with their functions:

| Transitional Phrase | Function |
|---------------------|----------|
| However | _____ |
| In addition | _____ |
| Meanwhile | _____ |
| Therefore | _____ |

Using Evidence

Evidence is used to support claims and make arguments more convincing. What are some types of evidence that can be used in argumentative writing?

- _____
- _____
- _____

Writing a Conclusion

A conclusion is a summary of the main points and a final thought on the topic. Write a conclusion for the argumentative essay you started on page 3.

Use the following sentence stem to help you write your conclusion:

"In conclusion, _____ because _____."

Peer Review

Exchange your essay with a partner and review each other's work. Use the following criteria to evaluate the essays:

- Claim
- Counterclaim
- Evidence
- Transitional phrases
- Conclusion

Self-Assessment

Reflect on your own learning and evaluate your essay using the same criteria as the peer review. What did you do well? What could you improve on?

Extension Activity

Choose one of the following topics and write a full argumentative essay:

- Should schools have uniforms?
- Should the minimum age for voting be lowered to 16?
- Should schools start later in the morning?