Mastering Discursive Writing: Student Activity Worksheet

Student Information

Name:	Date:	Class:

Part 1: Evidence Evaluation (20 points)

For each piece of evidence below:

1. Rate its strength on a scale of 1-5 (1 = weakest, 5 = strongest)
2. Explain your rating using specific criteria
3. Identify what could make the evidence stronger

Evidence A:

"A 2023 study published in Nature involving 10,000 participants across 15 countries found that social media use exceeding 3 hours daily correlates with increased anxiety levels."

Rating (1-5):	
Explanation:	
Improvement Suggestions:	

Evidence B:

"My friend told me that social media is bad because it makes people feel lonely."

Rating (1-5):	
Explanation:	
Improvement Suggestions:	

Part 2: Source Credibility Analysis (15 points)

Apply the CRAAP test to evaluate the following academic source. Consider each element carefully and provide detailed responses.

Source Analysis:

"Effects of Social Media on Mental Health" published in the Journal of Psychology (2023)

CRAAP Test Elements:

C - Currency (timeliness)

R - Relevance (importance)

A - Authority (source)

A - Accuracy (reliability)

P - Purpose (reason)

Element	Your Analysis	Score (1-3)
Currency		
Relevance		
Authority		
Accuracy		
Purpose		

Part 3: Argument Construction (25 points)

Construct a complete academic argument about the impact of artificial intelligence on employment. Follow the structured format below and ensure all components are logically connected.

Topic: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Employment

1. Main Claim (Your position):

2. Evidence (Provide three specific pieces):

Evidence 1:

Evidence 2:

Evidence 3:

3. Warrant (Explain how your evidence supports your claim):

4. Backing (Additional support for your warrant):

5. Counterargument (Potential opposition to your claim):

6. Rebuttal (Your response to the counterargument):

Part 4: Rhetorical Analysis (20 points)

Analyze the following speech excerpt using the rhetorical triangle (Ethos, Pathos, Logos) and identify specific persuasive techniques.

"As we stand at the crossroads of technological advancement, we must consider the profound implications of artificial intelligence. Our research team, with decades of combined experience in computer science and ethics, has documented concerning trends in data privacy. When 87% of users report feeling vulnerable online, we cannot ignore these statistics. Think about your own children navigating this digital landscape – don't they deserve better protection? We must act now to implement stronger safeguards."

Rhetorical Element	Evidence from Text	Effectiveness (1-5)
Ethos (Credibility)		
Pathos (Emotion)		
Logos (Logic)		

Part 5: Counter-Argument Development (15 points)

Select one of the following controversial topics and develop both sides of the argument using the structured format below.

Choose one topic:

- Should social media companies be responsible for content moderation?
- Should standardized testing be eliminated from college admissions?
- Should governments implement universal basic income?

Selected Topic:

Supporting Arguments	Opposing Arguments
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Part 6: Logical Fallacy Identification (15 points)

Read each statement carefully. Identify the logical fallacy present and explain why it's problematic.

Statement 1: "If we allow students to use calculators in math class, next thing you know they'll want to use them during tests, and eventually, they won't learn any math at all!"

Identify the fallacy:

Explain why it's problematic:

Statement 2: "Professor Johnson must be a great teacher because she drives an expensive car and lives in a mansion."

Identify the fallacy:

Explain why it's problematic:

Statement 3: "Everyone knows that studying art is useless. You should study something practical instead."

Identify the fallacy:

Explain why it's problematic:

Part 7: Final Reflection and Synthesis (15 points)

Reflect on your learning about argumentation and critical thinking throughout this assignment.

1. What have you learned about evaluating evidence?

2. How has your approach to analyzing arguments changed?

3. Which logical fallacies do you find most common in everyday life? Why?

4. How will you apply these critical thinking skills in your academic work?

Self-Assessment

Rate your confidence level (1-5) in the following areas:

Evaluating Evidence	
Constructing Arguments	
Identifying Logical Fallacies	

Overall Critical Thinking	

Scoring Rubric

Component	Maximum Points	Points Earned	Teacher Comments
Evidence Evaluation	20		
Source Credibility Analysis	15		
Argument Construction	25		
Total Score:			

Overall Feedback: