

The Hunger Games Argumentative Essay



CC9.1 b: Create written texts that explore efficacy (Surviving and Conquering).

CC9.3: Select and use appropriate strategies to communicate meaning before, during, and after writing activities.

Argumentative Essay Definition: An **argumentative essay** is a writing piece meant to persuade someone to think the way you do. Typically, it will utilize specific quotes and references to back up an opinion with fact to convince the reader that the writer's answer is the right one.

The Hunger Games is an exciting narrative which demonstrates how people must make choices, overcome fears, struggle against conformity, and rely on instincts in order to survive and conquer. All these events impact relationships: friends turn into enemies; close families are separated; loyal subjects become rebels.

ESSAY TOPICS

(Choose one of the following)

- 1) Did Katniss 'conquer' the Hunger Games? Explain why or why not, with examples from each side of the argument.
- 2) Is there a difference between simply committing wrongful acts and wrongful acts committed for the sake of survival? Focus on one or two characters from the novel to explore this question.
- 3) With reference to the text, explore the difficulties of maintaining status as a 'hero' character while both surviving and conquering the Hunger Games

Refer specifically to The Hunger Games when developing the idea. While your aim is to argue for and provide an answer to the question, keep in mind that there might actually be no clear answer, which in itself will provide an answer to the question. Throughout your research, you might examine some of the characters and how they change. Use examples, events, and quotes. — In addition, identify writer's technique such as the **setting**, **conflict**, **contrast**, **character**, **imagery**, **irony** and **symbolism** to further your answer. Make sure to include opposing arguments to analyse the question in full.

First – Brainstorm. Choose a question and make a list of things that connect to it and might lead to an answer. This list can include characters, themes, settings, events, etc as you see fit.

Second – Focus. Decide on a clear stance you will be taking within the essay. Eliminate any examples that do not fit in with the side you are taking, but make sure to categorize things that support your argument and things that may support an opposing argument.

Third – Graphic Organizer. Fill in the attached graphic organizer with your argument (thesis) and supporting items. This is a rough draft, so do not be alarmed if things change during the writing process. Attach the graphic organizer to your essay when handing it in.

ESSAY STRUCTURE

Introductory Paragraph:

- general statement about literature
- theme of literature - what it's about
- thesis (your side of the topic)
- supporting arguments (proof that your side is correct) - 3

3 Body Paragraphs

Concluding Paragraph

- restate the thesis and summarize your three supporting points
- end with an empathetic statement(s) that emphasizes the importance of the work as a whole and answers the chosen question

How to write a body paragraph of a literary essay:

Basic Paragraph structure:

Topic sentence

Supporting details (3-ish)

Concluding sentence

Literary Paragraph: (1 quote)

Topic sentence (statement indicating what the paragraph will be about)

Elaborate on topic

Support/example (quote from the text)

Significance of quote - implications - so what?

Concluding sentence

Literary Paragraph: (2 quotes)

Topic sentence (statement indicating what the paragraph will be about)

Elaborate on topic

Support/example (quote from text)

Significance of quote - implications - so what?

(transition)

Elaborate more on topic

Support/example (quote from text)

Significance of quote - implications - so what?

Concluding sentence

REMEMBER

State - elaborate - exemplify - implicate (in each paragraph)

RUBRIC

	Fully Meeting Expectations (9-10)	Mostly Meeting Expectations (7-8)	Somewhat Meeting Expectations (5-6)	Not Meeting Expectations (1-4)
Introduction	Your introduction was engaging and highlighted your thesis as well as the ideas you planned to explore in a well thought out manner.	The introduction was well written, but the ideas could have been better presented to make it feel less listy.	The introduction was not particularly engaging, but managed to present the ideas in a somewhat coherent manner.	The introduction was weak and failed to explain what the essay was going to cover. Strong revision recommended to connect thoughts and ideas in a more organized fashion.
Well Defined Thesis	There was no doubt in the audience's/ reader's mind as to your position	You have created a well-defined thesis with the position stated	You were somewhat able to state your position and provide	You need to more clearly identify your position and outline your key

	in your text. You supported your position with highly convincing arguments that addressed your purpose.	clearly and convincingly.	arguments. More research would provide ideas and evidence to support your argument. Be sure about your purpose.	points. What are you trying to say, why are you saying it, and how can you convince others?
Consideration of Opposing Arguments	You did an excellent job of thinking on your feet and recognizing your opponents' arguments. You anticipated concerns and counterclaims in your arguments and addressed biases and expectations with confidence and insight.	You analyzed the oral statements made by your opponents and engaged in dialogue to understand the viewpoint of others. You effectively addressed concerns, biases, expectations and counterclaims.	You struggled a bit to provide and support opposing arguments within your essay. When preparing for a persuasive text, remember to consider what the other side might say. Remember to keep your comments positive and constructive.	Little, if any, evidence of opposing argument was provided. When preparing for a persuasive text, ask for help to find information on both sides of the topic. Think about how you would win an argument at home. How can you prepare for opposing views?
Relevant Content and Textual Reference	You used clear and concise arguments. Ideas were clearly related to your topic and provided strong evidence to support your position. You used a variety of quotes and references from the text to support your	You supported your position with reasons, facts, examples, explanations and evidence. You used a variety of quotes and textual references.	You were somewhat able to group related ideas and support your argument with some evidence. Ask yourself: does this information relate directly to the argument I am making right now?	Textual references were not very clear and did not coherently support your argument. More and/or clearer examples are needed. How many sources did you find? Were they relevant to your topic? Go back

	argument.			to your graphic organizer to be sure all ideas relate to your topic. Ask for help to find evidence to support your key points.
Strong Organization	Your persuasive text was very well organized. The introduction grabbed the audience's attention and the conclusion left them thinking. The details in the body contributed in an interesting way to your argument.	You presented your arguments in a logical sequence. In the beginning you identified your position and main arguments. In the middle, you provided supporting evidence and details. In the conclusion, you generalized the comments and arguments presented.	You had some trouble being able to organize your text in a logical sequence. Spend more time in the planning stage and ask for feedback on your outline before moving forward. Share your work with a partner to see if it seems to flow well.	Your ideas were not organized into a beginning, middle and end. Your graphic organizer will help organize your ideas and make your essay flow in a strong, logical sequence.
Language and Grammar	Your skilled use of expressive language contributed to the audience's/ reader's engagement. Your language choices were appropriate and effective. Very few, if any, grammar errors are present,	You adjusted your language to suit your audience and purpose. Essay was clearly read over for grammar and spelling mistakes, though there are a few hardly noticeable errors. Your	You use appropriate language and grammar some of the time. Reading your essay out loud may help alleviate major errors in future works.	You struggle to make your language suit the topic of the essay. Consider the subject matter and think about how language affects meaning. In the future, make sure to spell check your writing and

	making your piece coherent with little interruption to the writing flow.	language was clear and careful.		proofread to get rid of any errors.
Citations	Citations were properly done in MLA format with no errors. Works Cited Page is included and the first page is properly formatted.	Citations were done in MLA format, but there are one or two misplaced objects.	Citations are provided for most items, but are not properly formatted.	Citations are either not present, or are largely done improperly.