

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write an Argument Essay

Directions: Read "Would You Ban Texting and Walking?" Complete the essay kit on page 11.
Then follow the steps below.

STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

Should texting while walking be illegal?

Consider what you read in the article, as well as your own viewpoints.
Check the box next to the point of view you will argue in your essay.
Or write your own opinion in the space provided.

☐ **Yes!** The world would be safer. ☐ **No!** A law isn't needed.

☐ _____

STEP 2: GATHER SUPPORT FOR YOUR OPINION

Look at what you wrote in the "Yes" and "No" columns on page 11. Which points support your opinion?
What other information supports your opinion? List at least three supporting details on the lines below.

Here's an example: If you think texting while walking should be illegal, one of your supporting details might be: "Between 2000 and 2011, distracted walking led to more than 11,000 injuries in the U.S."

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

If you think that texting while walking **SHOULD** be illegal, summarize the strongest arguments of those who disagree. If you think that texting while walking **SHOULD NOT** be illegal, summarize the main reasons some people think a law is necessary.

STEP 4: CRAFT YOUR THESIS (CENTRAL CLAIM)

The thesis is where you tell readers what your essay is going to be about. The thesis should be a clear, strong statement of the opinion you gave in Step 1. The rest of your essay will support this thesis.

Your thesis: _____

STEP 5: WRITE YOUR HOOK

The beginning of your essay is called the hook because it "hooks" your readers' attention. The hook should relate to the topic of your essay, but it can take many forms. It can be:

- 1. An anecdote** (a very short story): Describe your experience with texting while walking. Do you do it? Have you ever put yourself in danger?
- 2. A surprising fact:** Find a fact that will raise your readers' eyebrows. Several surprising facts are included in the article. You can also do some research to find one that is not included in the article.
- 3. A rhetorical question** (a question to which you don't expect an answer): Ask your readers a question that reflects your point of view. Here's one way you could structure your question:
"Is making distracted walking illegal really the only way to _____?"
- 4. A quote:** Find a thought-provoking quote that relates to the topic of your essay.

Choose one of the ideas above, or use your own idea, and write a hook on the lines provided.

Your hook: _____

Let readers know a little about the issue you will be writing about. This is not your point of view; it's a brief summary of the issue. Finish the summary of the debate over banning distracted walking.

Distracted walking has become a serious and dangerous problem in the United States. Some people think the solution is to make it illegal. Others think _____

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

On the next page, you'll find guidelines for how to organize your essay.

Argument Essay Outline

Directions: Use the outline below to write your essay. You will use what you wrote on the first three pages of this activity.

| | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | <h2>INTRODUCTION</h2> <p>Open with your hook from Step 5.</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Write a transition sentence that relates your hook to the question of whether texting and walking should be illegal.</p> <p>↓</p> <p>(See <i>Scope's</i> handout "Great Transitions" for some ways to link your ideas.)</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Write your summary of the issue from Step 6.</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Finish with your thesis from Step 4.</p> |
| 2 | <h2>BODY PARAGRAPH(S)</h2> <p>Now write your supporting points from Step 2. For each one, write 1-3 sentences that provide additional details.</p> <p>You can put your supporting points and detail sentences together in one paragraph or you can split them into several paragraphs. It depends on how much you want to write about each point.</p> <div data-bbox="1185 913 1526 1207" style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><i>Hint! Order your supporting points from weakest to strongest. Readers will best remember details that are presented last.</i></p> </div> |
| 3 | <h2>ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE</h2> <p>Now it's time to recognize the other side of the argument.</p> <p>Use what you wrote in Step 3.</p> <p>Then explain why you think the opposing point of view is wrong.</p> |
| 4 | <h2>CONCLUSION</h2> <p>Write 2-3 sentences to remind your readers of your main points.</p> <p>Finish with a strong final sentence.</p> <div data-bbox="1209 1564 1526 1764" style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><i>Need an idea? Refer to your hook, find a quote, or give a call to action.</i></p> </div> |
| 5 | <h2>READ AND REVISE</h2> <p>Use <i>Scope's</i> "Argument-Essay Checklist" to evaluate and edit what you have written.</p> |

SKILL: Essay Writing

Argument-Essay Checklist

Directions: Use this guide to check your own essay, or exchange papers with a classmate and use the list to check each other's essays. In the margins of the essay you are checking, make notes about anything that needs to be revised.

Introduction

- ✓ Does the first sentence grab readers' attention?
- ✓ Does the first paragraph provide a general overview of the essay's topic?
- ✓ Does the first paragraph include a thesis statement that strongly and clearly states your point of view? Does the thesis clue readers in as to what the essay is going to be about?

Body Paragraphs

- ✓ Do they contain a total of at least three points that support the thesis?
- ✓ Do they provide details to further explain each of the supporting points?
- ✓ Are the supporting points presented in order from weakest to strongest?
- ✓ Do you acknowledge an opposing point of view and then explain why you think it isn't strong enough to change your point of view?

Conclusion

- ✓ Does the last paragraph remind readers of the main points of the essay, without going into *too* much detail and repeating everything readers just read?
- ✓ Is the conclusion free of new information (such as another supporting point)?
- ✓ Does the last sentence leave readers with a strong final impression?

General

- ✓ Does one idea flow smoothly into the next?
- ✓ Do the sentence structures and lengths vary?
- ✓ Does every sentence relate to the thesis?
- ✓ Does everything make sense?
- ✓ Is the essay convincing?
- ✓ Are the grammar, punctuation, and spelling correct?

SKILL: Essay Writing

Great Transitions

Transitions are like bridges between your ideas—they help your readers move from one idea to the next. Here are some transition words and phrases you may wish to use in your essay. Keep in mind that they can be used at the beginning of a sentence or within a sentence.

If you are adding information or showing similarity between ideas:

- additionally
- besides
- so too
- first of all/secondly/thirdly
- in addition
- also
- likewise
- to begin with
- as well as
- another
- furthermore
- finally

If you are showing that one idea is different from another:

- however
- even though
- in contrast
- on the one hand/on the other hand
- yet
- despite
- still
- some people say/other people say
- but
- although
- in spite of
- regardless

If you are showing that something is an example of what you just stated:

- for example
- to illustrate
- this can be seen
- for instance
- namely
- specifically

If you want to show cause and effect:

- as a result
- consequently
- so
- it follows that
- therefore
- eventually

If you want to add emphasis:

- in fact
- of course
- truly
- even
- indeed

Name: _____ Date: _____

“Would You Ban Texting and Walking?” Quiz

Directions: Read “Would You Ban Texting and Walking?” Then answer the questions below.

- Kristin Lewis develops the idea that looking at a phone while walking is dangerous in all the following ways EXCEPT**
 - by including brain research that explains humans can't focus on two things at once.
 - by listing incidents of teens being harmed while using their phones.
 - by citing statistics about the likelihood of risky behavior while texting and walking.
 - by describing how teens at Waipahu High School wrote a new law.
- On page 10, Lewis writes, “After all, you're just glancing at your phone for a moment, right?” What literary device is she using?**
 - hyperbole
 - rhetorical question
 - metaphor
 - symbolism
- What is the purpose of the literary device you chose for your answer to question 2?**
 - to convince readers that looking at their phones is harmless
 - to support the idea that phones are distracting
 - to bring attention to an act that many people don't think of as a big deal
 - to show the importance of looking at your phone quickly
- Consider this line: “Some say we shouldn't need a law for something that boils down to common sense” (11). The phrase “boils down to” means**
 - is at its heart.
 - is the opposite of.
 - happens occasionally.
 - cooks slowly.
- Consider this line: “... many of her classmates admitted that unless a law was passed, they probably wouldn't put their phones away” (11). How does this line contribute to the article?**
 - It offers a rebuttal to the idea that texting while walking is dangerous.
 - It supports the argument that laws can affect people's behavior.
 - It supports the idea that teens have the ability to focus on more than one thing at a time.
 - It shows that Honolulu is the only city addressing the problem of distracted walking.
- Which claim could be supported by information from the article?**
 - Teens are less distracted by devices than adults.
 - Whether illegal or not, distracted walking is hazardous.
 - Distracted walking will soon be outlawed nationwide.
 - Distracted walking is a problem only in the U.S.

Constructed-Response Question

Directions: Write your answer to the question below on the back of this paper or type it up on a computer.

- How well does Lewis support the idea that outlawing distracted walking would make the world a safer place? What could she have included to strengthen her claim? Use text evidence to support your answer.

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“Would You Ban Texting and Walking?” Quiz

Directions: Read “Would You Ban Texting and Walking?” Then answer the questions below.

- Which line supports the idea that using a phone while walking is dangerous?**
 - “The effectiveness of such measures, however, is unclear.” (p. 11)
 - “But is outlawing it really the solution?” (p. 10)
 - “As Taylor points out, laws have the power to change people’s behavior.” (p. 11)
 - “Between 2000 and 2011, distracted walking led to more than 11,000 injuries in the U.S.” (p. 10)
- On page 10, Kristin Lewis writes, “After all, you’re just glancing at your phone for a moment, right?” What literary device is she using?**
 - hyperbole
 - rhetorical question
 - metaphor
 - symbolism
- What is the purpose of the literary device you chose for your answer to question 2?**
 - to convince readers that looking at their phones is harmless
 - to support the idea that phones are distracting
 - to bring attention to an act that many people don’t think of as a big deal
 - to show the importance of looking at your phone quickly
- Consider this line: “Some say we shouldn’t need a law for something that boils down to common sense” (11). The phrase “boils down to” means**
 - is at its heart.
 - is the opposite of.
 - happens occasionally.
 - cooks slowly.
- The author likely included the detail about people not wearing seat belts until a law required them to as a way to**
 - share an interesting fact with readers.
 - support the argument that laws can affect people’s behavior.
 - emphasize the point that teens have the ability to focus on more than one thing at a time.
 - show that Honolulu is the only city addressing the distracted walking problem.
- Which claim could NOT be supported with information from the article?**
 - Distracted walking causes many injuries.
 - Distracted walking will soon be outlawed in all 50 states.
 - Whether illegal or not, texting while walking is hazardous.
 - Cities around the world are looking for ways to deal with the problem of distracted walking.

Constructed-Response Question

Directions: Write your answer to the question below on the back of this paper or type it up on a computer.

- Describe two ways Lewis supports the idea that outlawing distracted walking would make the world a safer place. Use text evidence to support your answer.