

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 \_\_\_\_\_**

[illegible]

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**

## INTRODUCTION

**Open with your hook from Step 5.**



Write a transition sentence that relates your hook to the question of whether texting and walking should be illegal.



(See *Scope's* handout "Great Transitions" for some ways to link your ideas.)



Write your summary of the issue from Step 6.



Finish with your thesis from Step 4.

**2**

## BODY PARAGRAPH(S)

**Now write your supporting points from Step 2.  
For each one, write 1-3 sentences that  
provide additional details.**

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.

***Hint!** Order your supporting points from weakest to strongest. Readers will best remember details that are presented last.*

**3**

## ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

**Now it's time to recognize the other side of the argument.**

Use what you wrote in Step 3.

Then explain why you think the opposing point of view is wrong.

**4**

## CONCLUSION

**Write 2-3 sentences to remind your readers  
of your main points.**

Finish with a strong final sentence.

***Need an idea?**  
Refer to your hook,  
find a quote, or give  
a call to action.*

**5**

## READ AND REVISE

**Use *Scope's* "Argument-Essay Checklist" to evaluate and edit what you have written.**