

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write an Argument Essay

Directions: Read "Should Eddie Buy These Sneakers?" Complete the scavenger hunt on page 11.
Then follow the steps below.

STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

Should Eddie buy a pair of expensive Adidas sneakers?

Consider what you read in the two letters, as well as your own viewpoint.
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!** Everyone has them.

☐ **No!** You can't buy happiness.

☐

STEP 2: GATHER SUPPORT FOR YOUR OPINION

Which details from the letters 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 Eddie should not buy the sneakers, one of your supporting details might be that Eddie is still growing and the sneakers will not fit him in a year.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

If you think Eddie **SHOULD** buy the sneakers, summarize the strongest arguments that Eddie's mom presents in her letter. If you think Eddie **SHOULD NOT** buy the sneakers, summarize the strongest arguments that Eddie presents in his letter.

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 very 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 a time when you bought a trendy, expensive item. Was it worth the cost? Did it make you happy? Or, if you have never bought something trendy and expensive, maybe you can describe a time when you wanted to.
- 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 about buy expensive, trendy things. Here's one way you could structure your question: "*Are expensive brand-name items really _____?*"
- 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: _____

STEP 6: SUMMARIZE THE ISSUE

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. Use information from both essays to finish the summary below.

Eddie wants to buy a pair of expensive brand-name sneakers. Eddie believes the sneakers will help him fit in and make him happy. Eddie's mom thinks _____

STEP 7: START WRITING

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
<p>Open with your hook from Step 5.</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Write a transition sentence that relates your hook to the question of Eddie buying the Adidas sneakers.</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	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 70%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">BODY PARAGRAPH(S)</p> <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> <div style="width: 25%; border: 1px dotted gray; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><i>Hint! Order your supporting points from weakest to strongest. Readers will remember details that are presented last.</i></p> </div> </div>
3	ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE
<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	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 70%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">CONCLUSION</p> <p>Write 2-3 sentences to remind your readers of your main points.</p> <p>Finish with a strong final sentence.</p> </div> <div style="width: 25%; border: 1px dotted gray; 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> </div>
5	READ AND REVISE
<p>Use <i>Scope's</i> "Argument-Essay Checklist" to evaluate and edit what you have written.</p>	