

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Write an Argument Essay

**Directions:** Read "YouTube Made Me Do It." Complete the essay kit on page 27.  
Then follow the steps below.

## STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

### Is social media responsible for encouraging dangerous behavior?

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!** It's all social media's fault.      ☐ **No!** Don't blame social media.

☐

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 2: GATHER SUPPORT FOR YOUR OPINION

Look at what you wrote in the "Yes" and "No" columns on page 27. 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 social media sites are not to blame for teens' dangerous behavior, one of your supporting details might be: "Then again, teens have been taking risks since long before YouTube, Instagram, and smartphones."**

**1.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

If you think that social media IS responsible for encouraging dangerous behavior, summarize the strongest arguments of those who disagree. If you think that social media IS NOT responsible for encouraging dangerous behavior, summarize the main reasons some people think it is.

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### 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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 challenge videos. Do you watch them? Have you ever put yourself in danger by trying one?
- 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 it really social media's fault that \_\_\_\_\_?"*
- 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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. Finish the summary of the debate over challenge videos.

**Kids are filming themselves doing dangerous stunts to get famous online, and many kids are getting hurt in the process. Some people think that social media sites like YouTube are to blame.**

**Others think** \_\_\_\_\_  
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### 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.

<b>1</b>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">INTRODUCTION</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Open with your hook from Step 5.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Write a transition sentence that relates your hook to the question of whether social media sites are responsible for encouraging dangerous behavior.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(See <i>Scope's</i> handout "Great Transitions" for some ways to link your ideas.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Write your summary of the issue from Step 6.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Finish with your thesis from Step 4.</p>
<b>2</b>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">BODY PARAGRAPH(S)</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Now write your supporting points from Step 2.</b> <b>For each one, write 1-3 sentences that provide additional details.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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="1182 913 1529 1207" style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><i><b>Hint!</b> Order your supporting points from weakest to strongest. Readers will best remember details that are presented last.</i></p> </div>
<b>3</b>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Now it's time to recognize the other side of the argument.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Use what you wrote in Step 3.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Then explain why you think the opposing point of view is wrong.</p>
<b>4</b>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">CONCLUSION</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Write 2-3 sentences to remind your readers of your main points.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Finish with a strong final sentence.</p> <div data-bbox="1209 1564 1529 1764" style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><i><b>Need an idea?</b> Refer to your hook, find a quote, or give a call to action.</i></p> </div>
<b>5</b>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">READ AND REVISE</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Use <i>Scope's</i> "Argument-Essay Checklist" to evaluate and edit what you have written.</b></p>