

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write an Argument Essay

Directions: Read "Would You Get a Flip Phone?" Complete the essay kit on page 11.
Then follow the steps below.

STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

Should you get a flip phone?

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!** What a great idea!

☐ **No!** What a terrible idea!

☐ _____

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 you should get a flip phone, one of your supporting details might be: "Flip phones don't have Instagram or any other app. That means you can enjoy your time free from distractions and pressure to be doing something else."

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

If you think that you **SHOULD** get a flip phone, summarize the strongest arguments of those who disagree. If you think that you **SHOULD NOT** get a flip phone, summarize the main reasons some people think getting a flip phone is a good idea.

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 relationship with your smartphone. Do you ever feel addicted to it? Do you feel like it enhances your life? (If you don't have a smartphone you can describe a family member's or friend's relationship to his or her phone instead.)
- 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:
"Would getting rid of your smartphone 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: _____

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 getting a flip phone.

[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	<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 you should get a flip phone.</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="1182 913 1529 1207" style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Hint! Order your supporting points from weakest to strongest. Readers will best remember details that are presented last.</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 1529 1774" style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Need an idea? Refer to your hook, find a quote, or give a call to action.</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>