

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

# Write an Argument Essay

**Directions:** Read "Finders Keepers?" Complete the scavenger hunt on page 27.  
Then follow the steps below.

## STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

### Should Jack and Leah keep money that they found on the street?

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!** Finders keepers!

☐

**No!** Keeping the money would be stealing.

☐

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 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 Leah and Jack should not keep the money, one of your supporting details might be that if you find money on the street, you are legally obligated to try to return it to its rightful owner.**

**1.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.**

\_\_\_\_\_

### STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

If you think Leah and Jack **SHOULD** keep the money, summarize the strongest arguments that Leah presents in her letter. If you think Leah and Jack **SHOULD NOT** keep the money, summarize the strongest arguments that Jack presents in his letter.

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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 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 found money on the street. Did you try to return it? Or, if you've never found money, maybe you can describe a time when you dropped or lost money. How did you feel?
- 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 keeping money that's found on the street. Here's one way you could structure your question: "*If you find money on the street, are you \_\_\_\_\_?*"
- 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. Use information from both essays to finish the summary below.

**Jack and Leah found \$100 on the street outside their school. Jack believes they should keep the money. Leah believes that keeping the money would be \_\_\_\_\_**

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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>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTRODUCTION</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Open with your hook from Step 5.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Write a transition sentence that relates your hook to the question of keeping lost money that you find.</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>Write your summary of the issue from Step 6.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Finish with your thesis from Step 4.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BODY PARAGRAPH(S)</b></p> <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>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 style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; float: right; width: 200px;"> <p><b>Hint!</b> Order your supporting points from weakest to strongest. Readers will remember details that are presented last.</p> </div>
<b>3</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE</b></p> <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>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONCLUSION</b></p> <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 style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; float: right; width: 200px;"> <p><b>Need an idea?</b> Refer to your hook, find a quote, or give a call to action.</p> </div>
<b>5</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>READ AND REVISE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Use <i>Scope's</i> "Argument-Essay Checklist" to evaluate and edit what you have written.</b></p>