

Name: _____ Date: _____

Go to Scope
Online to listen
to the words
and definitions
read aloud.

Vocabulary:

"Would You Stay in a Space Hotel?"

1. **envision (en-VIZH-uhn)** *verb*; To envision is to picture something in your mind, especially something you believe might happen or exist in the future. You might envision a weekend full of fun and adventure. Or you might envision your friend's delighted expression when he opens the birthday gift you got him.
2. **exclusive (iks-KL00-siv)** *adjective*; The verb *exclude* means "leave out." Something that is exclusive excludes certain people or groups. In other words, something that is exclusive is open or available only to one person or a limited number of people. Restaurants, shops, neighborhoods, and other places that are very expensive are often described as exclusive because they are available only to people with a lot of money—everyone else is excluded.
3. **expanse (ik-SPANS)** *noun*; An expanse is a wide area or stretch. *Expanse* is usually used to describe a huge area of land, water, or space that stretches out as far as you can see. From a boat, you might look out over the expanse of ocean before you.
4. **frivolous (FRIV-uh-luhs)** *adjective*; If something is frivolous, it is lighthearted, silly, or unimportant; it has no serious purpose or value.
5. **rigorous (RIG-er-uhs)** *adjective*; Something that is rigorous is very strict, demanding, or difficult. Military training is rigorous. Planes undergo rigorous safety checks before each flight.
6. **safeguard (SEYF-gahrd)** *noun or verb*; A safeguard is a precaution, protection, or defense. Washing your hands is a safeguard against sickness. A jewelry store might install a security system as a safeguard against theft.

As a verb, *safeguard* means "to guard, protect, or secure." You might safeguard your privacy by hiding your diary.

Directions: On the back of this page, list any other words from the debate whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the primary meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.

Vocabulary Practice

"Would You Stay in a Space Hotel?"

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the best answer to each question below.

1. Which is a more rigorous activity?

- Ⓐ relaxing with a book by the pool
Ⓑ running sprints at track practice

2. Which is a way to safeguard your laptop?

- Ⓐ carry it in a case
Ⓑ cover it with stickers

3. Which is a more frivolous purchase?

- Ⓐ cold medicine
Ⓑ a hot dog costume for your dog

Directions: Choose the word that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

4. exclusive

- Ⓐ restricted Ⓑ unlimited

5. envision

- Ⓐ ignore Ⓑ imagine

6. expanse

- Ⓐ area Ⓑ barrier

Directions: Complete each unfinished sentence in a way that makes the meaning of the boldfaced word clear.

7. I feel like doing something completely **frivolous** on Saturday, like _____.

8. Gregory looked out at the **expanse** of _____.

Directions: Write a sentence that includes a word or words from the list of vocabulary words on page 1 of this activity (including any words you added).

9. _____

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Write an Argument Essay

Directions: Read "Would You Stay in a Space Hotel?" Complete the scavenger hunt on page 29.
Then follow the steps below.

STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

Would you stay in a space hotel?

Consider what you read in the two essays, 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!** It would be the trip of a lifetime. ☐ **No!** It's not worth the money or the risk.

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 would NOT stay in a space hotel, one of your supporting details might be that the hotel is only about 35 feet long and 12 feet wide and could get cramped.

1.

2.

3.

STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

If you **WOULD** stay in a space hotel, summarize the strongest arguments against staying in the hotel that Henry presents in his letter. If you **WOULD NOT** stay in a space hotel, summarize the strongest arguments in favor of the trip that Liza presents in her 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 your feelings about space. Have you always been fascinated by it? Or does the idea of going to space terrify you?
- 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 staying in a space hotel. Here's one way you could structure your question: "Is it really worth \$9.5 million 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: _____

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.

Liza thinks that staying in a hotel in outer space would be an amazing trip and well worth the \$9.5 million price tag. Henry disagrees and believes that _____

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 whether to stay in a space hotel.</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	BODY PARAGRAPH(S)
<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 909 1531 1213" style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; float: right; width: 200px;"> <p>Hint! Order your supporting points from weakest to strongest. Readers will remember details that are presented last.</p> </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	CONCLUSION
<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="1206 1560 1531 1770" style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; float: right; width: 200px;"> <p>Need an idea? Refer to your hook, find a quote, or give a call to action.</p> </div>	
5	READ AND REVISE
<p>Use <i>Scope's</i> "Argument-Essay Checklist" to evaluate and edit what you have written.</p>	

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Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Fill in the boxes below to explore how the authors of the letters in "Would You Stay in a Space Hotel?" develop their arguments. We filled in some information for you.

	Liza	Henry
line(s) that expresses the central idea, or central claim		"... paying millions of dollars to stay in a space hotel is a terrible idea."
two pieces of evidence that support the central idea, or central claim		
line(s) that expresses the counterargument	"Of course, there is a reason that astronauts go through so much training: Space travel is dangerous."	
line(s) that contains the rebuttal to the counterargument		

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