

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write an Argument Essay

Directions: Read "Should We Get Rid of the Penny?" Complete the essay kit on page 17.
Then follow the steps below.

STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

Should the U.S. get rid of the penny?

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!** Pennies are pointless.

☐ **No!** Pennies are important.

☐

STEP 2: GATHER SUPPORT FOR YOUR OPINION

Look at what you wrote in the "Yes" and "No" columns on page 17. 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 we should get rid of the penny, one of your supporting details might be: "Add it all up, and the government loses half a cent for each of the billions of pennies it produces every year . . ."

1.

2.

3.

STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

If you think that the U.S. SHOULD get rid of the penny, summarize the strongest arguments of those who disagree. If you think that the U.S. SHOULD NOT get rid of the penny, summarize the main reasons some people think that we should.

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 experience with pennies. Do you ever use them? Do you have a penny jar at home?
- 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: *"Do we really need to keep making pennies if _____?"*
- 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: _____

There is disagreement over whether the U.S. should continue using pennies. Some people think that pennies are useless and should no longer be made. Others think that _____

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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 to stop making pennies.</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 style="border: 1px dotted black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><i>Hint! Order your supporting points from weakest to strongest. Readers will best remember details that are presented last.</i></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 style="border: 1px dotted black; 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>
5	<h2>READ AND REVISE</h2> <p>Use <i>Scope's</i> "Argument-Essay Checklist" to evaluate and edit what you have written.</p>