

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

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

# Vocabulary:

## "Would You Visit the *Titanic*?"

1. **abyss (uh-BIS)** *noun*; An abyss is a hole so deep or a space so enormous that it cannot be measured, as in, "We stepped through the opening of the cave into a great, shadowy abyss."
2. **bow (bou)** *noun*; A bow is the front end of a ship or boat.
3. **corrode (kuh-ROHD)** *verb*; To corrode is to slowly eat away at something—to wear it away or destroy it little by little. When water causes metal to rust, the water is corroding the metal.
4. **demise (dih-MAHYZ)** *noun*; Demise means "death." In the Harry Potter series, the ghost of Moaning Myrtle explains that it is Voldemort who is responsible for her demise. *Demise* can also refer to the end of something if that end is like a death. Some say e-readers like Kindles will lead to the demise of bookstores because people will stop purchasing hard copies of books and buy digital versions instead.
5. **iconic (ahy-KAHN-ik)** *adjective*; Someone or something is iconic if it is seen as a symbol and is recognizable to many people. The Eiffel Tower is iconic because many people think of it as a symbol of Paris, France. The red and yellow S on Superman's chest is iconic because many people recognize it as a symbol of Superman.
6. **inadvertent (in-uhd-VUR-tont)** *adjective*; As it is used in the article, *inadvertent* means "not intended or planned." You might do inadvertent harm to your mom's flowers if you water them *too* much. Forgetting to knock before you open a bathroom door might result in inadvertent embarrassment.
7. **maiden voyage (MAY-den VOY-uhj)** *noun*; The maiden voyage of a ship or aircraft is the first journey it makes.

**8. ogle (OH-guhl)** *verb*; To ogle is to stare at something with great interest or desire, especially something that is flashy, famous, or otherwise noteworthy. You might ogle a tray full of mouthwatering desserts at a restaurant.

**9. submersible (suhb-MER-suh-buhl)** *noun or adjective*; The verb *submerge* (suhb-MURSS) means "to go under water" or "to cover with water." To stay cool, hippos submerge themselves in rivers and lakes.

The adjective *submersible* means "able to fully function when completely underwater." A submersible watch is a watch that you can wear while swimming.

The noun *submersible* refers to a small boat that is designed to operate underwater, especially for research and exploration.

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**Directions:** Below or on the back of this page, list any other words from the article 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 Visit the *Titanic*?"

**Directions:** Answer each question below.

**1. Which of the following is iconic?**

- Ⓐ the Statue of Liberty
- Ⓑ peppermint ice cream

**2. Which is the best example of an abyss?**

- Ⓐ the Grand Canyon
- Ⓑ a hole in your yard made by an earthworm

**3. Complete the sentence below:**

Over time, rainwater \_\_\_\_\_ the chain on my bike, and I had to replace it.

- Ⓐ ogled
- Ⓑ corroded

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

**4. inadvertent**

- Ⓐ accidental
- Ⓑ planned

**5. demise**

- Ⓐ beginning
- Ⓑ end

**6. ogle**

- Ⓐ ignore
- Ⓑ stare

**Directions:** Below are titles and summaries for imaginary books. Choose the best title for each book. Briefly explain your choices. (There is one title you will not use.)

### BOOK TITLES

- A. *An Inadvertent Journey*
- B. *Adventure in the Deep Ocean*
- C. *Maiden Voyage*
- D. *The Great Demise*

7. Paleontologist Christina Brown discusses the various theories behind the sudden disappearance of dinosaurs from Earth about 66 million years ago.

Title (A-D): \_\_\_\_\_ Why I chose this title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. The SpaceX company details how it is preparing for *Starship* to make its first trip to Mars in the year 2021.

Title (A-D): \_\_\_\_\_ Why I chose this title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Experience a day in the life of a submersible's pilot, driving along the seafloor with marine biologist Ty Smith as he searches for mysterious deep-sea creatures.

Title (A-D): \_\_\_\_\_ Why I chose this title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

# Write an Argument Essay

**Directions:** Read "Would You Visit the *Titanic*?" Complete the essay kit on page 20.  
Then follow the steps below.

## STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

### Would you visit the *Titanic*?

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!**

☐ **No!**

☐

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 2: GATHER SUPPORT FOR YOUR OPINION

Look at what you wrote in the "Yes" and "No" columns on page 20. 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 would NOT visit the *Titanic*, one of your supporting details might be that submersibles can cause accidental damage to shipwrecks.**

**1.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

If you **WOULD** visit the *Titanic*, summarize the strongest arguments of those who think the trip is not a good idea. If you **WOULD NOT** visit the *Titanic*, summarize the main reasons some think that the trip is a good idea.

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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 feelings about the deep ocean. Have you always been fascinated by it? Or does the idea of exploring the deep sea 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. Here's one way you could structure your question:  
"Is it really worth \$105,000 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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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 visiting the *Titanic* that begins below.

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**

## INTRODUCTION

**Open with your hook from Step 5.**



Write a transition sentence that relates your hook to the question of whether to visit the *Titanic*.



(See *Scope's* handout "Great Transitions" for some ways to link your ideas.)



Write your summary of the issue from Step 6.



Finish with your thesis from Step 4.

**2**

## BODY PARAGRAPH(S)

**Now write your supporting points from Step 2.  
For each one, write 1-3 sentences that  
provide additional details.**

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.

*Hint! Order your supporting points from weakest to strongest. Readers will best remember details that are presented last.*

**3**

## ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

**Now it's time to recognize the other side of the argument.**

Use what you wrote in Step 3.

Then explain why you think the opposing point of view is wrong.

**4**

## CONCLUSION

**Write 2-3 sentences to remind your readers  
of your main points.**

Finish with a strong final sentence.

*Need an idea?  
Refer to your hook,  
find a quote, or give  
a call to action.*

**5**

## READ AND REVISE

**Use *Scope's* "Argument-Essay Checklist" to evaluate and edit what you have written.**

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

## “Would You Visit the *Titanic*?” Quiz

**Directions:** Read “Would You Visit the *Titanic*?” Then answer the questions below.

- Consider the first three paragraphs of the article. Which sentence best describes the point of view Mackenzie Carro uses?
  - She uses first-person point of view and speaks from the point of view of the submersible’s pilot.
  - She uses second-person point of view and addresses the reader as though the reader were a passenger on the *Titanic*.
  - She uses second-person point of view and addresses the reader as though the reader were a passenger on an OceanGate submersible.
  - She uses third-person point of view and describes a submersible’s descent.
- Carro uses the point of view you identified in question 1 to
  - show the reader that anyone can afford to go on one of OceanGate’s expeditions.
  - put the reader in the story, helping the reader imagine the experience she is describing.
  - show that the tone of the article is serious.
  - create feelings of sympathy in the reader.
- On page 20, Carro writes, “That amount of money could feed 10 families of four for a year.” This line
  - explains how expensive it is to feed a family.
  - shows that many don’t have enough to eat.
  - tells you that the OceanGate expedition is affordable.
  - supports the idea that there are more important things that \$105,000 could be used for.
- Which line does NOT support the idea that visiting the *Titanic* is a unique opportunity?
  - “To date, only 200 people have seen the wreck up close. That’s fewer than the number of people who have gone to space.” (p. 19)
  - “Scientists estimate that the *Titanic* could disappear within 20 years.” (p. 19)
  - “You might even catch a glimpse of a creature that has never been seen before.” (p. 20)
  - “At press time, 30 people had already signed up to go.” (p. 18)
- On page 20, Carro writes, “Then again, the deep sea is an unforgiving place.” Which is the definition of *unforgiving* as it is used in this sentence?
  - harsh, hostile, and difficult to deal with
  - not willing to forgive people’s wrongdoings
  - not yet studied or explored
  - mysterious, strange, or unexpected
- Which claim could NOT be supported by information from the article?
  - The *Titanic* holds a notable place in popular culture.
  - There is much we don’t know about the deep ocean.
  - Icebergs are still a major threat to ships today.
  - Submersibles make deep-sea exploration possible.

### Constructed-Response Question

**Directions:** Write your answer in a well-organized response.

- On page 19, Carro writes that “the story of the *Titanic* still captivates us.” What does she mean? Why do you think the *Titanic* still captivates people today? Use details from the article to support your answer.



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

## “Would You Visit the *Titanic*?” Quiz

**Directions:** Read “Would You Visit the *Titanic*?” Then answer the questions below.

- In the first two paragraphs of the article, Mackenzie Carro**
  - speaks from the point of view of a ship captain.
  - speaks to the reader as though the reader were a passenger on the *Titanic*.
  - speaks to the reader as though the reader were a passenger on an OceanGate submersible.
  - describes a trip on a submersible from the third-person point of view.
- Carro uses the point of view you identified in question 1 to**
  - show the reader that anyone can afford to go on one of OceanGate’s expeditions.
  - put the reader in the story, helping the reader imagine the experience she is describing.
  - let the reader know that the tone of the article is serious.
  - create feelings of sympathy in the reader.
- The main purpose of the section “The Tragedy” is to help readers understand**
  - where Newfoundland, Canada, is located.
  - how icebergs are formed.
  - what traveling on a ship is like.
  - why the *Titanic* is legendary.
- Which detail supports the idea that visiting the *Titanic* is a unique opportunity?**
  - There are countless movies and books about the *Titanic*.
  - Thirty people have already signed up for OceanGate’s June 2020 trip.
  - Submersibles can cause damage to the *Titanic*.
  - Fewer people have seen the *Titanic* wreckage than have traveled to space.
- On page 20, Carro writes, “Then again, the deep sea is an unforgiving place.” *Unforgiving* most closely means**
  - harsh.
  - sorry.
  - unexplored.
  - strange.
- Which claim could NOT be supported by information from the article?**
  - The *Titanic* has become a part of popular culture.
  - There is much we don’t know about the deep ocean.
  - Icebergs are still a major threat to ships today.
  - Submersibles make deep-sea exploration possible.

### Constructed-Response Question

**Directions:** Write your answer in a well-organized response.

- On page 19, Carro writes that “the story of the *Titanic* still captivates us.” *Captivate* means “to attract and hold someone’s attention.” Why do you think the story of the *Titanic* still captivates people today? Use details from the article to support your answer.