

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

Vocabulary:

"You Just Found a Dinosaur Fossil. Now What?"

1. auction (AWK-shuhn) *noun or verb*; An auction is a sale of goods. At an auction, each item being sold is given to the person who offers the most money for that item. In September, a Darth Vader mask and helmet from the movie *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* sold at an auction for \$900,000.

As a verb, *auction* means "to sell at an auction," as in, "Props from the Star Wars movies were auctioned off in September."

2. bidder (BIH-duhr) *noun*; Remember how at an auction, you try to get something by offering to pay a certain amount of money for it? That's called *making a bid*, or *bidding*. And the person who makes a bid is a *bidder*.

3. decor (dey-KAWR) *noun*; The way a room or the inside of a building is decorated is its decor. The decor of a bedroom might include the paint on the walls, the furniture, the rug, the curtains, the shelves, and the pictures on the walls.

4. Galapágos Islands (guh-LAHP-uh-guhs AHY-lunds) *geographic name*; This group of islands in the Pacific Ocean is about 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador, a country in South America. The Galapágos are known for the amazing variety of animals that live on them, many of which are not found anywhere else on Earth—like both the marine iguana and the lava lizard sitting on the iguana's head in this photo.

5. paleontologist (pey-lee-uhn-TOL-uh-jist) *noun*; A paleontologist is a scientist who studies fossils. (Fossils are the remains of plants and animals from a *loooooong* time ago—anywhere from 10,000 to 4 billion years ago.) The word comes from the Greek *paleo* meaning "ancient," *onto-* meaning "being," and *-logy* meaning "study."

6. trend (trend) *noun or verb*; A trend is a general direction of change. If more and more kids are riding bikes to school, you could say there is a trend toward cycling to school. *Trend* can also refer to something that is popular or fashionable right now. Hydro Flasks are a recent trend.

As a verb, *trend* means "to shift, change, or develop in a general direction." If the popularity of a video game is trending down, the number of people playing the game is decreasing. If a topic is trending on social media, it is being mentioned or discussed by many people.

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Write an Argument Essay

Directions: Read "You Just Found a Dinosaur Fossil. Now What?" Complete the scavenger hunt on page 29.
Then follow the steps below.

STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

You just found a dinosaur fossil. What should you do with it?

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.

☐

Sell it!

☐

Donate it!

☐

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 sell your fossil, one of your supporting details might be that dinosaur fossils can be worth millions of dollars.

1.

2.

3.

STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

If you would sell your dinosaur fossil, summarize the strongest arguments against selling fossils that James presents in his letter. If you would donate your dinosaur fossil, summarize the strongest arguments in favor of selling fossils that Mia 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 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 something valuable. What did you do with it? 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. Here's one way you could structure your question:
"If you find a fossil, 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: _____

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 selling fossils that begins below.

Mia and James found a precious dinosaur fossil in their backyard. Mia thinks that they should sell the fossil because it could be worth a lot of money. James disagrees and believes that _____

[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

INTRODUCTION

Open with your hook from Step 5.



Write a transition sentence that relates your hook to the question of whether to sell or donate a fossil.



(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: _____

Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Fill in the boxes below to explore how the authors of the letters in "You Just Found a Dinosaur Fossil. Now What?" develop their arguments. We filled in some information for you.

	Mia	James
line(s) that expresses the central idea, or central claim		"That's why it is essential that we donate this fossil to a place where paleontologists will be able to study it."
two pieces of evidence that support the central idea, or central claim		
line(s) that expresses the counterargument	"I know you're going to say that selling our fossil is wrong—that we should donate it to a scientific institution."	
line(s) that contains the rebuttal to the counterargument		

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