Argumentative Writing Essay

Introduction

C-E-R



- C - Claim, E - Evidence, R - Reasoning
- Use evidence to support what they are saying.
- Using supportive evidence helps people to believe (or find reliable) what is being said.

Claim

~ can also be described as an opinion
~ an opening statement

- What is your main idea or answer to the question?
  - This is a statement that answers the scientific question you are investigating
- Sentence Starters
  - My claim is that…
  - I believe that … because …
  - The answer to the question is …
  - It appears that …

Evidence

~ reasons why you believe it

- What specific data or observations support your reasons?
  - This is the factual information from your experiment, observations, or research that backs up your reasons. Be specific!
- Sentence Starters:
  - For example, the experiment showed that…
  - My observations indicated that…
  - The data collected revealed that…
  - Specifically, when we measured…, we found…
  - According to our results…

Reasoning

~ facts or observations that support what is being said

- Why do you think your claim is true?
  - These are general statements that support your claim. Think of them as the :why: behind your claim
- Sentence Starters:
  - One reason for my claim is that…
  - This is true because…
  - Another reason is that…
  - This happens due to…

Conclusion

~ summary or final thoughts

- What did you learn from this investigation, and how does it connect back to your claim?
  - Summarize your findings and reflect on your claim
  - You might also suggest further questions or investigations
- Sentence Starters:
  - In conclusion, my claim was supported because…
  - This experiment demonstrated that…
  - Therefore, we can conclude that…
  - My findings support that…
  - This leads me to wonder…

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Planning

Identifying Main Claim for Essay

- Think back to the activities we did:
  - Flashlight Lab
  - M&M Lab
- Think back to the passages we read
  - Why Does the Sun Shine So Brightly
  - Space Based Astronomy
- Some Ideas:
  - What did the flashlight experiment show us?
  - What facts did the text give about distances?
  - How did the prism/filters demonstrate light properties?
- Remember to find support for your Claim!

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Drafting

Make It Smooth and Clear

- To help connect ideas, try these phrases:
  - "for example,"
  - "this shows that,"
  - "therefore,"
  - "in conclusion"
- Refer back to the text and labs to find the factual evidence
- Use your graphic organizer to help you keep things in order

Argumentative Writing Essay

Refine and Edit

Peer Editing

- You are helping your classmate out
  - Give them feedback that can help their writing get better
  - Use examples:
    - Ex: "I noticed you have a great claim, but could you add more details from the flashlight experiment in this paragraph?"
  - Negative/Unkind feedback is not tolerated
- Some thoughts to guide you:
  - Is the claim clear?
  - Is there enough evidence from experiments and texts?
  - Are linking words used effectively?
  - Is the conclusion strong?

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Presentation of Arguments

During the Presentation

As You Present to the Class:

- speaking clearly and at an understandable pace
- making eye contact
- using appropriate facts and relevant descriptive details to support main ideas

As You Listen to your Classmate:

- listening respectfully
- formulating thoughtful questions

