

Skill One

1a. Fill in the blanks using two words from the word bank below.

A complete argument includes both _____ and _____.
(1) (2)

<p><u>Word bank:</u></p> <p>Hypothesis Claim Introduction Opinion Conclusion Warrant Fact Findings</p>

1b. Briefly define each of the words that you put in the blanks above.

Word 1: _____

Definition: _____

Word 2: _____

Definition: _____

2. Which of the following statements is a complete argument? Circle one answer only.

- (a) Nouns are more important to a sentence than verbs
- (b) The area formula for a circle is the hardest to remember
- (c) We should not cut down trees because they return oxygen to the air
- (d) The United States should not get involved in other countries' wars

3. Which of the following statements is a complete argument? Circle one answer only.

- (a) The best way to reduce tardiness is to start school an hour later
- (b) Amount of time studying has the biggest effect on your grades
- (c) Schools should be required to improve the quality of their lunch
- (d) All schools need to have art so students can express themselves

4. Which of the following statements is an incomplete argument? Circle one answer only.

- (a) Since they are much shorter, poems are easier to write than essays
- (b) We should study fractions because we use them almost every day
- (c) You must know the location of all lab safety equipment so you can avoid injury
- (d) Franklin Roosevelt's best act as President was getting the US out of the Great Depression

5. Think about the following question:

Should high schools allow students to bring cell phones to school?

In one or two sentences, make a complete argument that responds to this question.

Skill Two

6. Each of the following questions provides a different warrant for the following claim:
We should make texting and driving illegal.

6a. Which type of warrant is given in the statement below? Circle one answer choice.

People who text and drive are 75% more likely to get in an accident

- (a) Data
- (b) Personal experience
- (c) Expert source
- (d) Logical reasoning

6b. Which type of warrant is given in the statement below? Circle one answer choice.

The National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration believes texting and driving is just as dangerous as drinking and driving.

- (a) Data
- (b) Personal experience
- (c) Expert source
- (d) Logical reasoning

6c. Which type of warrant is given in the statement below? Circle one answer choice.

Someone texting and driving crashed their car into mine.

- (a) Data
- (b) Personal experience
- (c) Expert source
- (d) Logical reasoning

6d. Which of the three warrants (6a, 6b or 6c) above provides the strongest support for the claim that we should make texting and driving illegal? In a few sentences, provide a complete argument for why the warrant you chose is stronger than the others.

7a. Which of the warrants below would be best for convincing **your teacher** that your class should go on a field trip

- (a) you have been working hard and you deserve a reward
- (b) field trips are fun
- (c) you learn better on field trips

In 1-2 sentences, explain why you circled the answer you chose above.

7a. Which of the warrants below would be best for convincing **your classmate** that your class should go on a field trip

- (a) you have been working hard and you deserve a reward
- (b) field trips are fun
- (c) you learn better on field trips

In 1-2 sentences, explain why you circled the answer you chose above.

Skill Three

First, read the passage below:

Many schools have been cutting back on non-academic classes, but one class that should not be cut is physical education. During a long day of classwork, students need a break for physical activity. Some students who do not get this break will act out in class. Finally, not exercising causes health problems like Type 2 Diabetes, which is increasing in this country. We must protect the opportunity for physical education in our schools.

8. In the passage above, what is the author's main claim? Circle one answer choice.

- (a) Students have long days of classwork
- (b) Students will act out
- (c) Schools should not cut physical education
- (d) Health problems are increasing in this country

9. What is one warrant the author gives to support his or her claim? Circle one answer choice.

- (a) "Many schools have been cutting back on non-academic classes"
- (b) "We must protect the opportunity for physical education in our schools."
- (c) "...students need a break for physical activity"

For questions 10a-10c, read the passage below:

Puerto Rico currently has its own government but is a territory of the United States. There have been many people who have fought for Puerto Rico to become a state, but others are against it.

People who believe that Puerto Rico should become a state give many reasons. They believe Puerto Ricans should have full rights (voting, welfare, etc.) because they pay taxes to the United States and many serve in the U.S. army. They have supported the United States as a colony for over 100 years. Also, the success of Alaska and Hawaii shows Puerto Rico could contribute to our economy by becoming a state.

Other citizens of both the United States and Puerto Rico have concerns. Puerto Ricans do not want to give up their flag and national pride. The U.S. flag would have to change to add a 51st star and the U.S. government would have to change to add Puerto Rican representatives. They also are worried about admitting a state where only 20% of people speak English (even though it is the official language).

Puerto Rico is likely to stay a U.S. territory until all sides agree. Because of the strong opinions, this may not happen for a long time.

10a. In one sentence, write a claim that responds to the question:

Should Puerto Rico become the 51st U.S. state?

10b. Write one quotation from the passage above to support the claim you made in 10a.

10c. Give one reason why the quotation you wrote in 10b supports the claim you made in 10a.

Skill Four

11. What is the definition of a counterargument? Circle one answer choice.

- (a) A misunderstanding resulting from flawed reasoning.
- (b) An argument that is stated clearly upfront.
- (c) An attack of a defending army against an enemy attack.
- (d) An argument in opposition to another argument.

For question 12, read the short passage below:

- I. More and more airports are using full body scanners to scan passengers.
- II. They are the best way of preventing problems on airplanes,
- III. though many people think these scanners are an invasion of privacy.
- IV. In the end, having scanners at airports should make us all feel better.

12) In which line of the passage above do you find a counterargument? Circle one answer choice.

- (a) Line I
 - (b) Line II
 - (c) Line III
 - (d) Line IV
-

13a. In one or two sentences, write a complete argument that responds to the question:
Should schools block the use of all online videos (including Youtube)?

13b. In one or two sentences, provide a counterargument to the argument you made in #3a.

13c. In a few sentences, respond to the counterargument you made above in #3b.

Skill Five

14) Read the short passage below and then write a short response (three to five paragraphs) that responds to the following question:

Should the United States make voting required (and punish those who do not)?

When writing your response, be sure that:

- You include a clear main claim or thesis statement
- You give at least 3 strong warrants to support your main claim
- Each warrant has some type of evidence to support it
- At least one warrant responds to a potential counterargument
- At least one warrant includes a piece of textual evidence
- You explain how the textual evidence you include supports your warrant

Passage:

While voting in the United States is optional, there are 32 countries where it is required. If people in these countries do not vote, they must pay a fine. Australia is one of these countries. 90% of Australian citizens vote, while the highest percent of U.S. citizens that voted was 64% for the 2008 Presidential election.

The United States might be better off with a required voting system. The idea of a democracy is that all citizens choose their government. The only way to get politicians to care about all citizens is if they all vote. It could make a greater part of the country educate themselves on the government. Finally, requiring everyone to vote means no groups will be left out.

A recent national survey showed that 70% of Americans are against required voting. Many believe it is against the idea of democracy to force them to vote. If forced, some may go to vote but not care who they vote for (or they may protest or slow down the system). Also, the punishments would be difficult to enforce. Finally, the system does not account for people who are sick, away, or do not like either candidate. Fining these people would be unfair and may cause them to resent the U.S. government more.