

Argumentative Essay #1

**I CAN USE A PROCESS TO GENERATE A
WELL-ORGANIZED, WELL WRITTEN AND WELL
THOUGHT ESSAY**

Writing Packets

To help you stay organized, we will have writing packets where all of our work for this essay will be done.

To create you packet, rip out 4 pieces of paper from your notebook. I'll pass the stapler around. Please write your full name and your class period at the top.

It will be very clear when I want you to do your work in the packet and when I want it in the notebook.

I will collect your writing packets each day.

The Essay Process (notebook)

Review

1. **Analyze** the **prompt**.
2. **Brainstorm** possible **claims** and **evidence** that matches those claims
3. **Discuss** your **claims** and **evidence**.
4. **Create** an initial **claim statement (thesis)**
5. **Organize** the **evidence** and support for that claim statement.
6. **Write** a clear **thesis statement** based on your claim statement. (check and share)
7. **Identify** primary **counter-claims** to your thesis statement.
8. **Write** your **introductory paragraph**. (Draft)
9. **Write** a **counter-claim** (antithesis) paragraph. (Draft)
10. **Write** at least **two supporting paragraphs**. (Draft)
11. **Write** a **concluding** paragraph. (Draft)
12. **Revise** your essay for ideas, transitions, and fluency.
13. **Edit** your essay for grammar, usage, mechanics, spelling and format.

1. Analyze the Prompt (notebook *Review*)

Steps:

1. Identify the topic for this essay.
2. Identify the target audience for this essay.
3. Identify the key words that must be addressed for this essay.
4. (For argumentative essays) Create a question based on the prompt

Your Prompt (packet)

In the class readings and discussion, the class has discovered that there is a critical concern about minimum wage in America. Some claim that the minimum wage is too low for workers to survive while others see no problem with the current minimum wage.

In a well-organized letter, write an argument designed to convince your **federal senator or representative** to **take action in some way about the minimum wage**. Make sure that your solutions are reasonable and realistic in nature and well-supported by evidence.

Step 1:

Analyze the Prompt: (packet)

Just write the answers

1. What is the topic for this essay?
2. For whom are you writing?
3. What concepts must appear in your essay in order for it to be successful (based on the prompt)?
4. What is the central question that your claim (and eventually your thesis) must address based on this prompt?

2. Brainstorm (notebook)

Steps:

1. Write down as many claims about this topic as you can. It is good to give yourself a time limit, but make sure that you focus only on making claims that address the prompt.
2. Generate as many pieces of evidence as you can that relate to these claims. This may be evidence from our readings, your own experience, or scenarios and analogies that you can create or imagine.

Step 2: Brainstorm Practice *Review*

(packet)

- ▶ Spend at least 5 minutes brainstorming claims for this essay prompt.
- ▶ Make sure to have at least two claims.
- ▶ Don't use this time to share with others. That step will come later.
- ▶ Once you have identified potential claims, take 25 minutes to list all the evidence that you can for both claims.
 1. Use the evidence from your articles (we have 3)
 2. Create or imagine scenarios that relate.
 3. List any examples from your personal experience (books you have read, movies you have seen, historical or life experiences that you are aware of)
- ▶ Be ready with a written version of the results of your brainstorm. If you aren't ready with this, you will critically injure your essay writing process.

Brainstorm Chart (packet)

Claims (Ways to answer the key question for the essay)	Examples	Scenario	Facts
<p><i>Claim 1:</i></p> <p><i>Don't raise the minimum wage.</i></p> <p><i>(When you finish, do the second claim)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. In Samoa, they raised the minimum wage and the economy collapsed.</i><i>2.</i><i>3.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. If we raise the minimum wage, businesses will have to fire workers and replace them with robots.</i><i>2.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. According to James Sherk, these minimum wage positions are gateway jobs, first on a career ladder of higher paying jobs.</i><i>2.</i>

3. Discuss (notebook)

Steps:

1. Find someone knowledgeable about your topic and share your thinking.
2. AND/OR, read articles or essays on the topic that might help you more fully clarify your claims.
3. During your discussion, you should refine your ideas, discover which claims and support you feel the most strongly about, and begin to narrow down what you might argue about.

Practice (5-minute discussions)

- ▶ Find a partner, and spend five minutes sharing and refining your claims and support.
- ▶ Focus on the claim that we **SHOULD** raise the minimum wage.
- ▶ After five minutes, Mr. Spaulding will let you know when you should stop and find a new partner and repeat the process for the claim that we **SHOULD NOT** raise the minimum wage.

4. Create a Claim (notebook)

Steps:

1. Take what you have learned from your brainstorming and combine that with what you discovered in your discussions and create an initial claim.
2. The initial claim should clearly answer the question you identified when you analyzed the prompt.
3. Your initial claim may change somewhat, but it will be a guide for the rest of your work, so you will not be changing it dramatically.
4. Try to avoid personal voice- “I think,” “I believe,” “We should”

Step 4: Create a Claim (packet)

- ▶ Take five minutes to formulate your initial claim for this essay.
- ▶ Make sure to have your claim out as Mr. Spaulding will come around to check your work.

▶ The minimum wage should/should not be...

5. Organize Your Evidence (notebook)

Steps:

1. Refer back to the evidence you collected and charted during Step 2 (brainstorm).
2. Identify what type of appeal (logical, ethical, emotional) that each piece of evidence would likely work for.
3. Organize evidence that supports your claim that might “fit together” to support one reason for your claim.

5. Organize Your Evidence (Packets)

Steps:

1. Next to each piece of evidence you found (for both sides of the argument) list the appeal (ethos/pathos/logos) that would work well with that piece of evidence.
2. Get two highlighters of different colors. Go through the evidence charts and highlight pieces of evidence that support the same reason. You are looking for two groups with around 3 pieces of evidence (not all evidence will fit in the groups).