

English 10

October 20th

Argumentative Essay #1

- I can use a process to generate a well-organized, well written and well thought essay

Warm-up

Try and convince your teacher that cell phones should be allowed during class.

Come up with two good reasons why cell phones should be allowed. Make sure you have chosen a type of appeal (ethos, pathos, and logos) and evidence type (fact, example, or scenario).

Come up with the most effective argument.

The Essay Process

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.

Essay Prompt

In the class readings and discussion, the class has discovered that there is a clear relationship between **poverty and education**. The class further discovered that there is a clear **achievement gap** between students who come from economically advantaged homes compared to students from economically disadvantage homes. In a well-organized letter, write an argument designed to convince your **principal** to **change something about your school that would reduce this achievement gap**. Make sure that your solutions are reasonable and realistic in nature.

Step 2: Brainstorm

Talk to a partner and explain

- what brainstorming is
- how you do it
- why it is important.

Step 2: Brainstorm Methods

For this essay, we need to come up with ideas for our claim. Remember, the claim is what we will be trying to convince our audience (Principal LeRoy) of by providing evidence. We are trying to get Principal LeRoy to do something to reduce the achievement gap at McKay.

Let's go with listing for this essay.

Step 2: Brainstorm Claims

Brainstorm as many ideas that finish this sentence:

To help reduce the achievement gap at McKay high school, Principal LeRoy should...

Don't write the sentence above, just list as many ways you can think of to finish the sentence.

To help reduce the achievement gap at McKay high school, Principal LeRoy should...

- 1. Perform brain surgery on students to make them smarter.**
- 2. Hire celebrities to be teachers so struggling students will pay more attention in class.**
- 3. Stop testing all students so we won't know if there is an achievement gap.**

Step 2: Brainstorm Claims

Brainstorm as many ideas that finish this sentence:

To help reduce the achievement gap at McKay high school, Principal LeRoy should...

We will spend 10 minutes brainstorming as many claims as we can.

You should have at least 10 ideas.

Step 2: Brainstorm Evidence

Now, read over your list and decide which are the top three claims you came up with.

For each of your claim, we will spend some time brainstorming **evidence or reasons** for your claim.

Step 2: Brainstorm Evidence

To help reduce the achievement gap at McKay high school, Principal LeRoy should hire celebrity teachers to help the economically disadvantaged students be more engaged because...

1. Students spend a lot of time watching movies and TV shows as they enjoy celebrities. If they were the teachers, the students would pay more attention.
2. Jim, a 10th grader, said that his normal teachers are "way boring", but if Lil Wayne was his teacher, he would come to every class "wanting to learn".

Step 2: Brainstorm Evidence

To help reduce the achievement gap at McKay high school, Principal LeRoy should _____

_____ because...

Come up with 5 reasons/evidence for each of the three claims you have chosen.

This may be evidence from our readings, your own experience, or scenarios and analogies that you can create or imagine.

Remember evidence is facts, examples, and scenarios

Step 2: Brainstorm Evidence

Claim #1	McKay should... Hire celebrities to be the teachers
Reasons/Evidence:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students idolize celebrities and would therefore idolize their teachers and be more engaged in the learning.2. Jim, a 10th grader, said that his normal teachers are “way boring”, but if Lil Wayne was his teacher, he would come to every class “wanting to learn”.3. ...4. ...5. ...

Do this for your top three claims