

Introduction to Argumentative Writing - Playing Video Games: Good or Bad?

WebQuest Description: An argumentative writing or essay is a genre of writing that requires the student to investigate a topic, collect, generate, and evaluate evidence, and establish a position on the topic in a concise manner. In this WebQuest, you'll learn to develop points or arguments and counter-points on the issue of video games!

Grade Level: 9-12

Curriculum: English / Language Arts

Keywords: Argumentative essay, Argumentative writing, Video games, Pros and Cons

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Introduction

You are taking the journey to explore the basic structure, techniques and steps to write a good argumentative essay and how you can persuade and present well-reasoned arguments on a debatable issue-Is Playing Video Games Good? Before you start, watch this funny Mario video game below!<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gF8q6wjpNhl&feature=related>

Tasks

Imagine, you are a researcher in a group of three and your task is to investigate, gather and develop ideas or information on either one of these below:the structure of an argumentative essaythe steps in writing a good argumentative essayandthe techniques or approaches in writing a good argumentative essayPresent your group report in 10-15 minutes!Your next journey is to do research on the issue of playing video games! Develop and write at least 3 argumentative points and 3 counter-points on this issue ! Remember, you have to take a firm stance on this issue. Be daring to tell or relate to others how things should be! Provide reasons to support all your claims and refute the opposing side of each argument points. Don't forget to cite experts who agree with you!Resources1. Steps in Writing Argumentative Essay2. ArgumentativeWriting Format3. The Power of Argumentative Writing4. Developing an Argument5. Video 16. Video 27. Video 3

Process

Work in a group of three. Remember, before you embark in the quest to write an argumentative essay, make sure you have read all the articles and watch videos on the steps, format, structure, developing arguments, writing the introduction, writing the first argument and conclusion of an argumentative essay. Each of you takes the role as a researcher to explore, investigate and write a report on each topic: the structure of an argumentative essay, the steps in writing a good argumentative essay and the technique or approach to write a good argumentative essay. Then, combine your work on these topics and present your findings to the class. Use large charts or posters to present! Next, read the articles given and watch the videos on the issue of video games and why should it be banned for the minors. Discuss in your group and list down all the pros and cons using the T-chart organizer. Then, each of you decide what stance to take, whether playing video games is bad or the opposite and why violent video games should be banned for the minors or vice-versa. Write your argumentative essay in 350 words using a good thesis statement and the minimal five-part structure you have already learnt.Post and share your work in the classroom blog created by your teacher for assessment and comments. Resources1.WebsitesBBCNews - Video games 'good for you'Eight Myths About Video Games DebunkedPlaying video games : Good or Bad?5 Reasons Why Video Games Can Be Bad For YouWikipedia: Video game behavioral effectsCause and Impact of Video Games AddictionMad, bad and dangerous to play: Are video games really more dangerous than Class A drugs?2.Video Clips<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oG4Cc97972Q&feature=related><http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sODsfCUPJmc&feature=relmfu>

Evaluation

Your work will be evaluated according to the evaluation rubric below. The main task is the argumentative essay and this is evaluated based on the criteria and standard given in MUET (Malaysian University English Test). The total score for your report presentation, group participation and argumentative essay is 100%.

Category and Score	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent	Score
Report Presentation(Content and Language Accuracy)	Presents very little information on the structure, steps and techniques in argumentative essay. Language is grossly inaccurate.	Presents some information on the structure, steps and techniques in argumentative essay. Language is sometimes inaccurate with some spelling and grammatical errors.	Presents most of the information on the structure, steps and techniques in argumentative essay. Language is in good control with only a few mistakes.	Presents a lot of information on the structure, steps and techniques in argumentative essay. Language is in very good control with only one or two slips.	20 %
Team Work/Group Dynamics	Had difficulty working together. No equal group participation and contribution. Cannot finish work on time.	Able to resolve some problems or difficulties working together. Not all members contributed equally; able to finish work on time.	Had not much problems working together. Group members participated and contributed quite equally well.Able to finish work on time.	Able to work together effectively and finish the task on time. All group members participated and contributed equally and effectively.	20 %
Argumentative Essay	Shows very limited response to the task; only one argument point given and no counter point at all. Lacks organization of ideas. Contains too many spelling and grammatical errors.	Shows satisfactory response to the task. Give more than one argument and counter-point. Ideas are logically sequenced; language is sometimes inaccurate. Contains some spelling and grammatical errors.	Shows good response to the task. Give more than two arguments and counter-points. Ideas are quite well-developed and organized. Contains very few grammatical errors.	Shows excellent response to the task. Ideas are very well organized and developed. Give more than three arguments and counter-points. Language is in excellent control with only one or two slips. Contains varieties of vocabulary and sentence structures.	60 %
				Total Score	100 %

Conclusion

Congratulations and Well Done!

You have accomplished your tasks!

In your journey of exploration, you have learnt the important skills to write a good argumentative essay! As a researcher, you have gathered some information on the structure, steps and techniques to write a good argumentative essay. Are there any other important tips on how to write a good argumentative essay? What are some of the tips or guidance given by experts or tutors?

You have also taken the challenge to work collaboratively and prepare charts or posters to present your group report! You have also successfully accomplished the task in writing the argumentative essay on the issue of playing video games!

Teacher Page

In this quest to explore and learn, students are gaining a lot of benefits! This project of inquiry learning allows students to explore, investigate, analyze and evaluate information from the resources selected for them. This WebQuest is created for high school ESL and EFL students who are learning to write a good argumentative essay. This tool can be used to prepare them for MUET (Malaysian University English Test).

Standards

Credits

Other

References
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<http://www.buowl.boun.edu.tr/students/types%20of%20essays/argumentative/ARGUMENTATIVE.htm#3>
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