English Language Arts/ English Language Development

Analyzing and Writing Arguments

Performance Task | Student Materials

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Directions

Please review the task below and answer the various questions within the task to the best of your ability. If needed, you may have an adult or peer read the task out loud to aid your understanding. Additionally, feel free to use the following tools as resources in answering each item.

When analyzing arguments from different perspectives, you can demonstrate your thinking and learning by:

* writing short responses with pen and paper or a word-processing application
* communicating your understanding verbally
* creating an infographic or other visualization
* creating a multimedia presentation

When writing arguments, you can utilize the following options for demonstrating your skills and knowledge by:

* using text-to-speech or speech-to-text to complete the content
* writing with pen and paper
* writing using a word processor that includes spelling and grammar tools
* dictating to a scribe[[1]](#footnote-1)

Consult with your teacher if you need to request any additional allowable supports to complete this performance task.

PART 1. Analyzing and Writing Arguments—Using Knowledge of Rhetoric to Write Arguments and Analyze Arguments from Diverse Perspectives (A)

Part 1. Directions

In this part of the performance task, you will read and analyze a piece of short literature—such as a poem, short story, or novel excerpt—that your teacher will provide featuring a multisided issue of interest. The reading can be read aloud with a partner, read silently on your own, or within a facilitated discussion with your teachers and peers. Your responses to the following questions will be used to demonstrate your understanding and analysis.

Item 1

After reading the text, respond to the following question.

What are the main claims being made in the text? Cite strong and thorough evidence from the text to support your analysis.

Item 2

After reading the text, respond to the following questions.

* How does the author structure their argument to support their claim, and how are the ideas and claims developed and refined throughout the text? Analyze the order of points, specific sentences, and paragraphs and how they are introduced and developed.
* What is the author's point of view, and how do they use rhetoric and language to advance this point of view? Analyze the choice of words, tone, style, and rhetorical strategies used.

Item 3

After reading the text, respond to the following question.

Restate the argument you see the text is making and evaluate the reasoning in the text to assess whether the evidence is strong and relevant. Are there any false statements or logical fallacies?

PART 2. Analyzing and Writing Arguments—Using Knowledge of Rhetoric to Write Arguments and Analyze Arguments from Diverse Perspectives (B)

Part 2. Directions

Apply your research about the multisided topic of your choice and argue a related position.

Item 1

Using the research you have already conducted on your chosen multisided topic, write a well-reasoned argumentative essay. Your essay should incorporate clear claims, relevant evidence, and counterarguments while maintaining a formal style and structure that facilitates clear communication. Your task is to take a stance on the issue and construct a compelling argument in its favor. Follow the guidelines to structure your essay effectively.

* **Claim:** Clearly state a precise, knowledgeable claim: ensure your main point (thesis) is clear and compelling while setting the direction for your argument.
* **Development:** Develop claims and counterclaims thoroughly: provide strong, relevant, and sufficient evidence to support your claims. Acknowledge and refute counterclaims effectively.
* **Organization:** Use clear and logical organization with appropriate transitions: ensure your argument flows smoothly with a clear progression of ideas. Structure sections and paragraphs cohesively.
* **Style and Tone:** Maintain a formal style and objective tone appropriate for the audience and purpose.
* **Grammar and Usage:** Demonstrate command of standard English grammar and usage: use parallel structure and a variety of phrases and clauses effectively. Accurately use general academic and domain-specific vocabulary.
* **Conclusion:** Provide a strong and effective conclusion: ensure your conclusion follows from and supports your argument. Synthesize the main points and reinforce your thesis.

Following these guidelines will ensure that you demonstrate your ability to write detailed and compelling arguments effectively.

1. If a student dictates to a scribe, it is important for the scribe to be careful to record **only** what the student explicitly communicates, rather than making interpretations and “filling in the blanks.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)