


Argumentative Essay Unit: Structure and Flow

Objective: Students plan and write argumentative essays from scratch, focusing on basic elements of strong argumentative essay structure.

Prompt: Are superheroes, like Batman, bad role models for children?

 You can replace this prompt with your own in any activity (or use [our assignment library](#))!

Duration: 5–7 class periods, or fewer with homework

Pre-Write


1 class period



Model Essay: ["So Teens Can Learn. Let Them Sleep!"](#)

Have students read the model essay and identify reasons why the argument is convincing. How does the structure of the essay help the writer persuade readers?

15-20 minutes


 Try projecting the essay and discussing students' observations as a whole class!



Graphic Organizer: [Generating a Thesis and Topic Sentences](#)

Students brainstorm ideas and choose a thesis and supporting claims.

15-20 minutes

 This time estimate includes brainstorming only; allow extra time for research.

Draft

2–3 class periods



Guided Draft: [Argumentative Essay](#) 

Students draft a full argumentative essay with the support of targeted tips.





Rubric: Thesis statement is a controversial opinion
Each topic sentence is a claim that supports the thesis
Each piece of evidence is a fact that supports the claim
Conclusion restates the argument and explains why readers should care
Transition words and phrases effectively link ideas

120–180 minutes


Revise

2–3 class periods



Practice: [Thesis Statement](#) 
[Topic Sentences](#) 
[Evidence](#) 
[Conclusion](#)
[Transitions](#) 

20–50 minutes

 Review students' first drafts. Assign each student to complete **one** of these practices based on which rubric item that student struggled with most.



Self Review: [Argumentative Essay](#)

Students review and revise their rough drafts with scaffolded support.

30-90 minutes