

# Teacher Instructions/Suggestions:

1. It is great to use this activity in the classroom as practice for identifying the parts of an argumentative essay.
2. Begin by reading the text to your students as they read along.
3. Once they have read the text, ask them as a group to identify the: hook, claim, reasons, evidence, counterclaim, refuting of the counterclaim, and re-stating of the claim. Highlight these in different colors. \*This is just a preference because I like for my students to see all of the different parts of the essay in different, more identifiable colors.\*
4. After highlighting as a group, have the students to fill in their graphic organizers independently.
5. At the end, have them to glue both the text and the organizer into an interactive notebook, \*if you use interactive notebooks.\*
6. When the students are actually writing an essay, encourage them to have this out as a model and a reference.

Another way to use this would be:

1. Have students to identify the parts completely independently without any group highlighting beforehand.
2. You could also have the students to highlight and fill in the organizer independently.
3. This can be used as an assessment to check understanding for argument writing.

I hope you enjoy this free resource! For questions or concerns, please email me at: [katie@hellotennessee teacher.com](mailto:katie@hellotennessee teacher.com)

Also, check out my other argumentative essay resources in my TpT store: Hello Tennessee Teacher!



## The Dangers of Trash in the Ocean

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it," said author Robert Swan. Have you ever wondered where your trash goes, whether you throw it away or drop it on the ground? This is something to seriously consider. Unfortunately, waste and trash have become a massive problem in the ocean because people all over the world are littering on land as well in the water. Litter must stop, or trash will continuously build up in the ocean.

When trash reaches the ocean, it affects marine animals in many harmful ways. For example, many animals are dying because they are ingesting plastic waste. There have been many whales that have died on separate occasions, and upon investigation, many pounds of plastic were found in their stomachs. Others have found sea turtles dead because of fishing gear, plastic products, and various other wastes that they have ingested. Whales and other creatures regularly get caught in old and new fishing gear, which can lead to starvation or drowning. Additionally, seabirds consume plastic, sometimes mistaking it for food. This often has deadly effects. According to National Geographic, many of these animals often mistake plastic bags for jellyfish in the open ocean, and they try to swallow them, usually leading to suffocation. Well over 200

species in and around the ocean are negatively affected by plastic waste.

Another reason that litter must stop reaching the ocean is because it can also be hazardous to humans. While some have thought that plastic would only decompose at high temperatures, scientists have recently discovered that they will decompose even in lower temperatures. When this plastic decomposes, it leaves traces of chemicals such as bisphenol A. Plastic that is used in Styrofoam, DVD cases, and other items was also found in samples of ocean water. These plastics are also full of potentially cancerous chemicals, and when ingested by animals, they could get into their systems. Eating fish that have these harmful substances in their systems can affect humans. According to National Geographic, these chemicals become more concentrated when contaminated animals eat other contaminated animals. This could be bad news for those at the top of the food chain—humans.

On the one hand, it is more work to be sure that waste is properly recycled and disposed of. Some cities offer recycling services, but for others, it is up to the citizens to do the extra work and get waste to a recycling facility. Even with the extra work though, the benefits of recycling and disposing of waste far outweigh the cons of having to put forth some extra work and effort. If trash continues to build up in the ocean, animals will continue suffering and even going extinct, and humans will continue possibly eating contaminated meat. If people all over the world would band together and properly dispose of waste, so many problems could be put to a stop before too much damage is done.

If humans do not stop littering all over the world, waste will only become worse over time, and the oceans will continue to accumulate it. Animals and humans would benefit greatly from everyone pitching in and doing their part. Recycling is necessary for our oceans to recover and to thrive.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# ARGUMENTATIVE Writing Practice

What is the claim that the author is making?

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What are the two reasons in the article that support the claim? Write them on the lines below in complete sentences.

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List at least two pieces of evidence that support the reasons for making the claim.

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What is the counterclaim that the author mentions?

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What is your opinion on the topic? Explain it in at least three sentences.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# ARGUMENTATIVE Writing Practice

What is the claim that the author is making?

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What are three reasons or pieces of evidence in the article that support the claim? Write them on the lines below in complete sentences.

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What is your opinion on the topic? Explain it in detail and provide text evidence to support your opinion.

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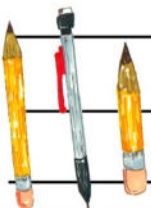
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## ARGUMENTATIVE Writing Practice

What is the claim that the author is making?

Litter must stop, or trash will continuously build up in the ocean.



What are the two reasons in the article that support the claim? Write them on the lines below in complete sentences.

1. When trash reaches the ocean, it affects marine animals in many harmful ways.
2. Another reason that litter must stop reaching the ocean is because it can also be hazardous to humans.

List at least two pieces of evidence that support the reasons for making the claim.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

1. Others have found sea turtles dead because of fishing gear, plastic products, and various other wastes that they have ingested.
2. These plastics are also full of potentially cancerous chemicals, and when ingested by animals, they could get into their systems.



What is the counterclaim that the author mentions?

On the one hand, it is more work to be sure that waste is properly recycled and disposed of.

What is your opinion on the topic? Explain it in at least three sentences.

Student answers may vary.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# ARGUMENTATIVE Writing Practice



What is the claim that the author is making?

Litter must stop, or trash will continuously build up in the ocean.

What are three reasons or pieces of evidence in the article that support the claim? Write them on the lines below in complete sentences.

Answers may vary. Possible answers:

Reasons: When trash reaches the ocean, it affects marine animals in many harmful ways. Another reason that litter must stop reaching the ocean is because it can also be hazardous to humans.

Text Evidence: Additionally, seabirds consume plastic, sometimes mistaking it for food. Eating fish that have these harmful substances in their systems can affect humans.

What is your opinion on the topic? Explain it in detail and provide text evidence to support your opinion.

Student answers may vary.





# THANK YOU!

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