

# Unpacking the Directions: Pre-Argumentative Essay Writing

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Step 1. Match each term on the left with the correct definition on the right.

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1) ____ claim        | a) A short work of non-fiction that deals with a single topic                                 |
| 2) ____ paraphrase   | b) The exact words of an author or speaker, placed inside "quotation marks"                   |
| 3) ____ source       | c) Specific pieces of information that support a claim (e.g. facts, quotes or statistics).    |
| 4) ____ plagiarism   | d) A text that communicates knowledge about a particular fact or circumstance                 |
| 5) ____ elaborate    | e) To refer to a statement from an expert or authority as an example                          |
| 6) ____ direct quote | f) Book, statement, or person that supplied information                                       |
| 7) ____ transition   | g) A writer's position on an issue or problem   |
| 8) ____ cite         | h) A text that takes a side about an issue or problem and supports it with reasons & evidence |
| 9) ____ argument     | i) Putting an author's ideas in your own words while still giving the author credit           |
| 10) ____ informative | j) Taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own                      |
| 11) ____ essay       | k) Add details or expand on an idea or thought  |
| 12) ____ evidence    | l) A word or phrase that bridges ideas  |

## Step 2. Match each term on the left with the correct synonym on the right.

- |                 |                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) claim        | a) origins                         |
| 2) paraphrase   | b) descriptive; educational        |
| 3) source       | c) position; stance                |
| 4) plagiarism   | d) formal debate; academic dispute |
| 5) elaborate    | e) thesis; dissertation            |
| 6) direct quote | f) stealing; intellectual theft    |
| 7) transition   | g) develop; refine; improve        |
| 8) cite         | h) word for word; verbatim         |
| 9) argument     | i) rewording; rephrase             |
| 10) informative | j) give credit; mention            |
| 11) essay       | k) links; connections              |
| 12) evidence    | l) proof                           |

## Step 3. For each term on the left, write 2 antonyms in the columns to the right.

1) <b>informative</b> is the opposite of	a.	b.
2) <b>paraphrase</b> is the opposite of	a.	b.
3) <b>argument</b> is the opposite of	a.	b.
4) <b>plagiarism</b> is the opposite of	a.	b.
5) <b>elaborate</b> is the opposite of	a.	b.
6) <b>transition</b> is the opposite of	a.	b.

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**Form A: Step 1.** Read each writing prompt carefully.

**Step 2.** Determine whether you are being asked to write an argumentative essay or an informative essay.

**Step 3.** Circle ~A or I~ next to each prompt to indicate your choice.

**Step 4.** Use a highlighter to highlight key words that provide evidence as to which type of essay you are being asked to write.

**Step 5.** Below each prompt rephrase the statement prompt as a question prompt.

1. ~A or I~ Clarify how the Tasmanian devil is different from other fauna native to Australia.

Restated as a Question \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

2. ~A or I~ Compare and contrast Whitman's depiction of Civil War experiences in "The Artilleryman's Vision" and in a letter to his mother.

Restated as a Question \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

3. ~A or I~ Decide whether or not the primary mission of colleges and universities should be preparing students for the workforce.

Restated as a Question \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

4. ~A or I~ Analyze the universal themes in Kipling's poem "If—" and Colon's memoir "Kipling and I".

Restated as a Question \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

5. ~A or I~ Elaborate on how Edgar Allen Poe's poem "The Raven" explains the "human thirst for self-torture: as Poe himself proclaimed.

Restated as a Question \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

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**Form A: Step 1.** Carefully read the argumentative writing prompt.

**Step 2.** Rephrase the statement as a question.

**Step 3.** Based on the question you've conceived, write the two possible claims you would have to choose between when writing your essay. The claim you do NOT select to prove would serve as your opposing claim (aka counter argument or counter claim).

1. Write an essay in which you take a position on whether or not dieting makes people fat.

- Question \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?
- Possible Claim \_\_\_\_\_.
- Possible Claim \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Write an essay in which you take a position on whether or not romantic love is a poor basis for marriage.

- Question \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?
- Possible Claim \_\_\_\_\_.
- Possible Claim \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Write an essay in which you take a position on whether or not the war on terror has contributed to the growing abuse of human rights.

- Question \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?
- Possible Claim \_\_\_\_\_.
- Possible Claim \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Write an essay in which you take a position on whether or not high school graduates should take a year off before entering college.

- Question \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?
- Possible Claim \_\_\_\_\_.
- Possible Claim \_\_\_\_\_.