

WRITER'S WORKSHOP Controversial Issue

Prewriting: Listing Arguments and Counterarguments

Use the graphic organizer below to form a list of arguments and counterarguments concerning the issue you're writing about in your persuasive essay.

- ◆ At the top of the chart, write the position statement you've developed about the issue.
- ◆ In the left column, list strong arguments that support your position on the issue.
- ◆ In the right column, list possible counterarguments, or rebuttals, of your position.

When you have finished, share your chart with a group of classmates. They might think of supporting arguments or counterarguments that you've overlooked.

Position statement:	
Supporting Arguments	Counterarguments

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Evaluating and Revising: Peer Editing

DIRECTIONS: Use the following questions to evaluate a classmate's essay about a controversial issue. Then, share your responses with the author of the paper to help him or her revise.

1. Is the issue well defined and interesting to you? Is the writer's position clearly stated at the beginning of the essay?

2. Does the writer use both logical and emotional appeals effectively? _____

3. Which arguments are most persuasive? least persuasive? Is the order of arguments effective?

4. Is the evidence presented relevant and credible? _____

5. Does the writer convincingly rebut arguments to his or her position? Does he or she gracefully concede points?

6. Can you tell what outcome the writer desires? _____

7. Does the writer seem to have considered his or her intended audience? _____

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Assessment Rubric: 1 = Poor 2 = Fair 3 = Good 4 = Excellent**DIRECTIONS:** Circle 1, 2, 3, or 4 below to indicate the evaluation of each item.**Issue**

- ◆ The writer clearly defines the issue and his or her stand on it. 1 2 3 4

Thesis

- ◆ The essay includes a strong and credible position statement. 1 2 3 4

Arguments

- ◆ The writer develops his or her position clearly by using both logical and emotional appeals in convincing and well-developed arguments. 1 2 3 4

Counterarguments

- ◆ The writer includes and answers important counterarguments and shows thoughtful consideration of the audience's point of view. 1 2 3 4

Organization

- ◆ The essay is logically organized. 1 2 3 4

Conclusion

- ◆ The essay's conclusion shows that the writer is very clear about the outcome he or she desires. 1 2 3 4

Spelling, Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics

- ◆ The essay has few errors in spelling, grammar, usage, or mechanics. 1 2 3 4