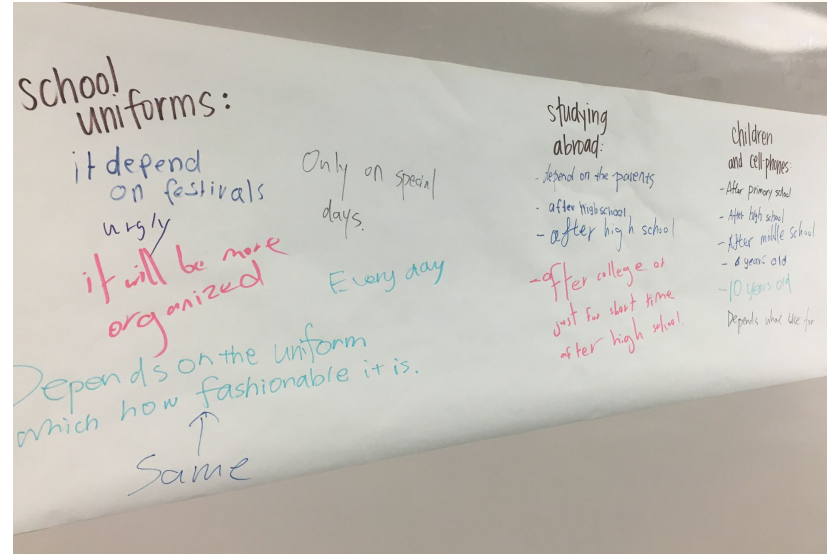


ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

Practice activities & prompts for:
claims, supporting arguments,
counter-arguments, & refutations

Brainstorming: what's your opinion about these topics?

- School uniforms
- Studying abroad
- Children and cell phones
- Chewing gum in class
- Social media
- Video games
- High-school exit exam
- Traveling alone
- Vending machines in school



Vocabulary

1. Claim

Your “thesis” in argumentative writing. Your argument about the topic.

2. Supporting argument

Evidence, examples, or details that support your claim.

3. Counterargument

An argument from the opposite point-of-view. It does not support the claim.

Vocabulary Examples:

1. Claim

Mandatory homework sessions are important for student social and academic growth.

2. Supporting argument

Students benefit from a routine and schedule where they can do their homework.

3. Counterargument

Students already spend 7-8 hours a day at school, and they should have the freedom to do homework outside of school.

Topics:

An argumentative topic must have two points-of-view (two different opinions).

What makes a good topic for an argumentative essay?

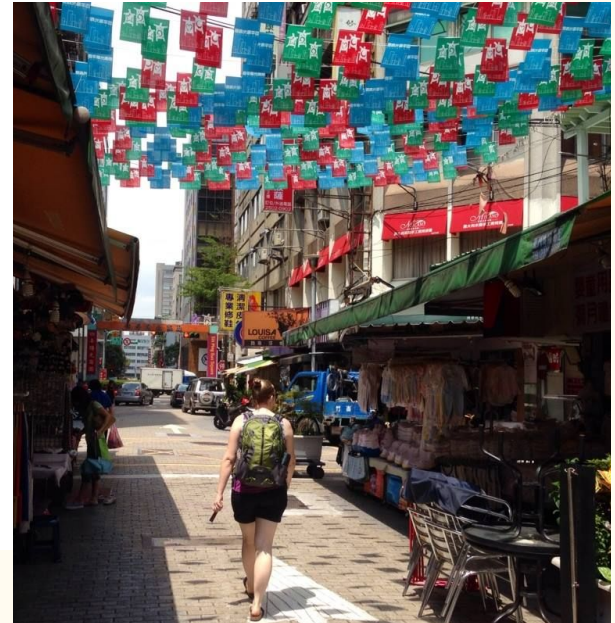


Think-Pair-Share:

Claim: Traveling alone is essential to becoming a responsible adult.

Think & Talk:

1. Think of one supporting argument.
2. Think of a counterargument.



Think-Pair-Share:

Claim: Cell-phones are an important tool that students should use in class.

Think & Talk:

1. Think of one supporting argument.
2. Think of a counterargument.



Think-Pair-Share:

Claim: Cell-phones must not be used while driving.

Partner Talk:

1. Think of one supporting argument.
2. Think of a counterargument.



Poster Activity

Claim: Cell-phones are an important tool that students should use in class.



Let's brainstorm!

Claim: Cell-phones are an important tool that students should use in class.



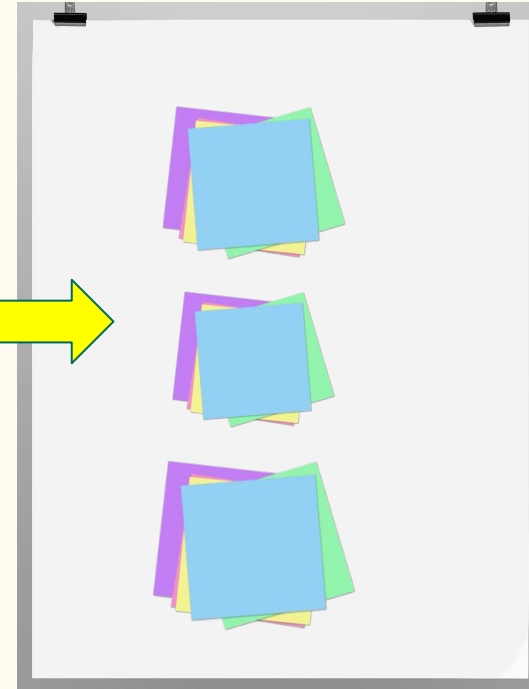
- 1. Group work**
- 2. Brainstorm together: ideas and evidence for your paragraph**
- 3. Write ONE sentence on each sticky-note**
- 4. Similar ideas / sentences are okay!**



Claim: Cell-phones are an important tool that students should use in class.

Next!

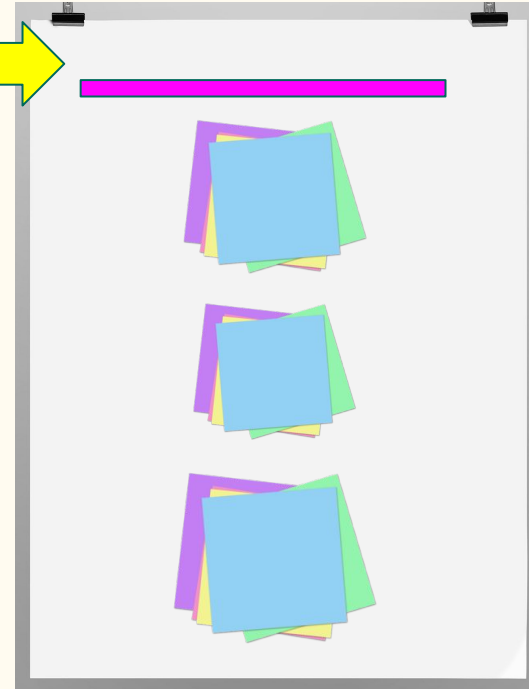
- 1. Organize the notes into similar ideas.**
- 2. Organize them into a logical order (like a paragraph).**



Claim: Cell-phones are an important tool that students should use in class.

Next!

- 1. Topic sentences!**
- 2. At the top of your poster, write a topic sentence for your paragraph.**
- 3. Check your grammar :)**



Grammar for writing: Connectors

For example,

In addition,

Also,

Similarly,



**Use these connectors
for your evidence and
supporting sentences.**

Wearing school uniforms would help make students' lives simpler. For example, they would no longer have to decide what to wear every morning. In addition, uniforms not only save time but also would eliminate stress.

Grammar for writing: Connectors

However,

In contrast,

On the other hand,



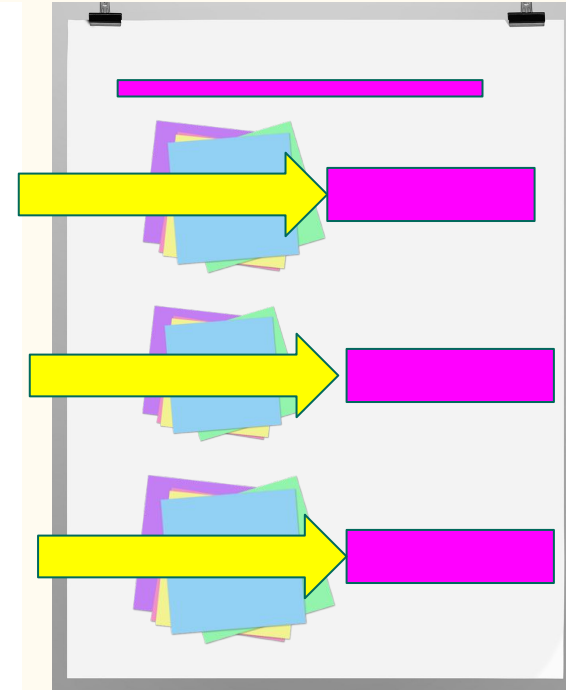
Use these connectors
for your
counterargument and
refutation.

Others may believe that mandatory uniforms stop students from showing their individuality. However, school is a place to learn and not a place to flaunt wealth and fashion.

Claim: Cell-phones are an important tool that students should use in class.

Next!

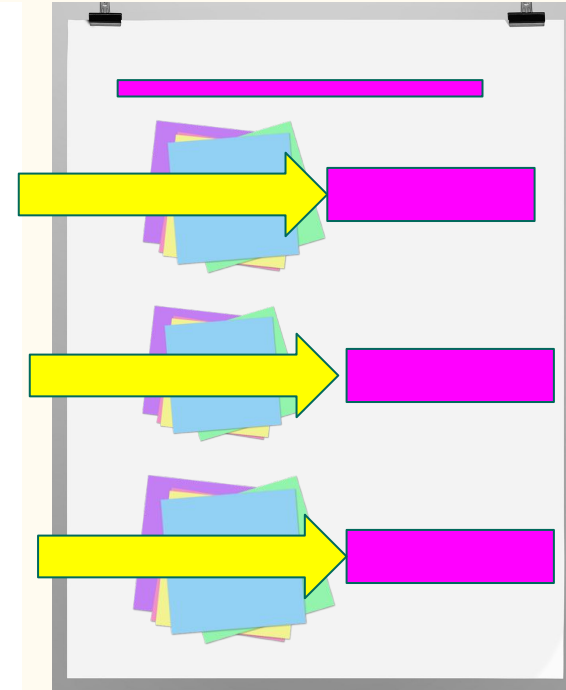
- 1. Look at your notes**
- 2. Write one sentence for each idea**
- 3. Use connectors**



Claim: Cell-phones are an important tool that students should use in class.

Put them on the board!

What did we just do?



Big-Idea Question:



Name:

- 1. What does counterargument mean?**
- 2. What did you learn from today's outline activity?**

Reviewing the counter-argument paragraph

Some people believe that cell-phones distract students in class and teachers can't control what they are working on. However, teachers can control the use of cell-phones in some different ways. For example, they can control the time or ask questions after students use phones. In fact, if someone is really distracted by phone, schools can set up some rules to limit students. The teacher can also make students absent if they use their phone a lot. Phones are still a little disturbing to some students, but a translator is more important. In other words, cell phones can explain new knowledge which is easier for students to understand.

counterargument

Reviewing the counter-argument paragraph

Some people believe that cell-phones distract students in class and teachers can't control what they are working on. However, teachers can control the use of cell-phones in some different ways. For example, they can control the time or ask questions after using phones. In fact, if someone is really distracted by phone, schools can set up some rules to limit students. The teacher can also make students absent if they use the phone a lot. Phones are still a little disturbing to some students, but a translator is more important. In other words, cell phones can explain new knowledge which is easier for students to understand.

refutation

Reviewing the counterargument paragraph

Some people believe that cell-phones distract students in class and teachers can't control what they are working on. However, teachers can control the use of cell-phones in some different ways. For example, they can control the time or ask questions after using phones. In fact, if someone is really distracted by phone, schools can set up some rules to limit students. The teacher can also make students absent if they use the phone a lot. Phones are still a little disturbing to some students, but a translator is more important. In other words, cell phones can explain new knowledge which is easier for students to understand.

connectors

Vocabulary Review:

1. Claim
2. Supporting argument
3. Counterargument
4. Refutation

Claim: School uniforms are a better choice for three reasons.

Counterargument: Others may argue that uniforms don't allow students to show their individuality.

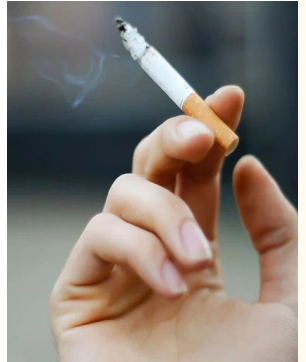
Think of refutation...

**However, ...
Actually, ...**

Group Work:

With a group: Write one sentence for each number below:

1. Write a claim about “smoking”
2. Write one supporting topic sentence.
3. Write a counterargument. (one sentence)
4. Write a refutation. (one sentence)



Thank you!



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