

What Do You Think?

Prompt Sequence: Grade: 7 | Genre: Argumentative

This nine-week prompt sequence features a purposefully chosen set of Grade 7 prompts for students defining their positions and identities in relation to the world around them. Our Spot Check and Signal Check prompts focus on the central facets of argumentative writing, helping students to take an arguable stance in their writing, present evidence in a clear way, and distinguish the claim from the counterclaim. Teacher use of the Exemplar Essays, and Expansion Pack and Curriculum Resource activities enhances student development in and understanding of successful argumentative writing.

Week 1: Diagnostic

Assign **Naps: Healthy or Not?** in Spot Check as a diagnostic writing task to get a baseline regarding students' starting levels in each trait.

Week 2: Review

Print and discuss the **Naps: Healthy or Not?** Exemplar Essay. Utilize Exemplar activities with students to illustrate and define key elements of successful argumentative writing.

Week 3: Preparation

Use the Assignment Report to see where students struggled on the diagnostic. Prepare students for their formative assignment by leading an Expansion Pack activity aimed at improving weaker areas.

Week 4: Formative Assignment

Use Signal Check to assign **Letter to Your Principal: School Uniforms** for students to practice argumentative writing skills and receive actionable, formative feedback on their writing.

Week 5: Review

Print and discuss the **Letter to Your Principal: School Uniforms** Exemplar Essay to revisit key elements of successful argumentative writing. Compare and contrast the rubrics from the first two assignments. Point out the importance of distinguishing a counterclaim in a Grade 7 argument.

Week 6: Skill Building

Prepare an Expansion Pack Activity that will support students in their use of evidence, their writing organization, or language.

Week 7: Formative Assignment

Use Signal Check to assign **Screen Time** for students to practice argumentative writing skills and receive actionable, formative feedback on their writing.

Week 8: Skill Solidifying

Use the Assignment Report to see where students struggled on their formative assignments. Implement activities from the Expansion Pack aimed at addressing weaker areas in order to prepare students for their culminating writing task.

Week 9: Culminating Writing Task

Assign **School Sports** in Spot Check as a culminating writing task to check on student's progress on the skills of this unit of study.

