

Name: _____ Period: _____

Teen Living Computer Research Project

RUBRIC

Writing Score from UtahCompose	Scores are given out of 30 but I grade you out of 25.		
Content Score	Paper used credible sources of information (10 points)	Paper gave arguable points to defend the argument (10 points)	Student clearly demonstrated knowledge of social issue (10 points)
Packet Score	Brainstorm page is completely filled out. (10 points)	Skeletal Outline is completely filled out. (10 points)	-Works Cited Page is attached (10 points) -Evaluation (step 8) is filled out. (5 points)
Packet Score: _____/35	Content Score: _____/30	Writing Score: _____/25	TOTAL POINTS: _____/90

Teacher Comments:

RESEARCH STEPS

- 1) **GLOBAL ISSUES IN CONTEXT:** Go to the school's home page and click on "library catalog". Next, click on "Pioneer Online Library". On the next page, click on "GALE Reference Collection", then "Global Issues in Context". The page that will come up is full of different social issues that you can research and get more information about.
- 2) You are only to use this research based search engine to write an Argumentative essay, NOT GOOGLE! You are to pick a social issue that you want to research; examples could include teen pregnancy, bullying, drug and alcohol abuse, child abuse, abortion, eating disorders, etc. As you research your issue and write your essay, remember to use specific evidence to support your argument.
- 3) Before you begin writing, you must research your topic! To do this I want you to **brainstorm** on the sheet provided in this packet. In order to really learn about a social issue and become familiar with the perspectives surrounding it, you need to

research and look at the information that is out there. Fill out the brainstorming sheet in this packet before you move on the next step. I expect to have a full page of information; you may do a "spider web/bubble" type of brainstorming.

- 4) After you've gathered a lot of information and you've brainstormed, refer to the sample skeletal outline provided. Filling out an outline before you write your paper will help you organize your thoughts before you even start writing. This process is important before writing because it helps you write an organized paper that will state all the points you want presented. Make sure to fill out the blank **skeletal outline** provided (this is worth a large portion of your points for this assignment).
- 5) Only after you have completed these steps, go ahead and open Word, where you can **write your final paper.**
- 6) When you have completed your paper, you are going to copy and paste your essay in the following online program: www.utahcompose.com . There you will put in your user name and password (you should know this from your English classes). Once in, follow these steps:
 - a. Click on the "Teen Living" course
 - b. After you enter the class, click on the "practice" tab. Under topic, click on "Social Issues Argumentative Essay", then click on begin writing. You can then copy and paste your paper into the program and submit for grading.
 - c. Once you click submit, you will immediately get a score. **PLEASE REVIEW YOUR SCORE** and read through the critique portion!! Utahcompose gives you a lot of good information about how to write a quality paper.
- 7) Keep track of where you are getting your information. Prepare a **Works Cited Page** that cites where you researched. Print this page separately and staple to this packet.
- 8) **EVALUATION:** What were some of the suggestions Utah Compose gave you after submitting your paper? What are your strengths of this paper? What could you do differently next time? Please include specific recommendations that Utahcompose gives you (write in complete sentences). _____

BRAINSTORMING SHEET

Skeletal Outline (Argumentation)

Name _____

Period _____

I. Introduction

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____

II. Warrant 1

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

III. Warrant 2

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

IV. Warrant 3

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

V. Counter-Arguments and Rebuttals

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____

VI. Conclusion

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____

Sample Skeletal Outline

Should Gun Control be enforced for School Safety?

(This is a sample, it does not necessarily reflect any opinions of your teacher)

1. Introduction
 - A. Why are we as a nation standing around while horrible people have access to guns and go in and shoot classrooms?
 - B. Gun control has been a heated topic for centuries, ever since our early ancestors granted us the right to bear arms.
 - C. My claim is that gun control should be enforced, and we need to stop giving weapons to bad people, so nobody has the ability to create hateful crimes like school violence.
 - D. Other countries that have strong gun control laws have less crime than America. Recreational guns are only used for hunting, other purposes for guns are rarely used and hunting is not needed. Bottom line is that if criminals don't have access to guns, it is less likely that crimes like school violence will occur in the future.
2. Warrant #1- Other countries that have strong gun control laws have less crime than America.
 - a. Backing- must be evidence based, opinions aside.
 - b. Backing- must be evidence based, opinions aside.
3. Warrant #2- Recreational guns are only used for hunting, other purposes for guns are rarely used and hunting is not needed.
 - a. Backing- must be evidence based, opinions aside.
 - b. Backing- must be evidence based, opinions aside.
4. Warrant #3- If criminals don't have access to guns, it is less likely that crimes like school violence will occur in the future.
 - a. Backing- must be evidence based, opinions aside.
 - b. Backing- must be evidence based, opinions aside.
5. Counter Argument and then Rebuttal
 - a. Counter Argument #1- Some might say that "Bad people are going to cause violent crimes if they want to, even if they don't have access to weapons."
 - b. Rebuttal to Argument #1- However, if it is harder for these people to get weapons of mass destruction, they will not hurt as many people and can easily be stopped.
 - c. Counter Argument #2- Some might say that "The bearing of arms is a right that all American's should have".
 - d. Rebuttal to Argument #2- Although this is a nice idea, the reality is that guns are going to the wrong people and we need to have tighter gun control laws.
6. Conclusion
 - a. Restate claim and review evidence.
 - b. Implications- why is this argument important?
 - c. Summary of what you talked about.
 - d. Your final profound thought that you want to leave the reader with.

Argumentation Skeletal Outline

- I. Introduction of the problem or topic.
 - A. "Hook" (Something to get the reader's attention)
 - B. Introduce the problem or topic
 - C. Introduce the claim, perhaps with accompanying qualifiers that limit the scope of the argument along with evidence to support the claim.
 - D. Introduce the warrants
- II. Warrant #1 to support the claim.
 - A. Backing #1 to support Warrant #1
 - B. Backing #2 to support Warrant #1
 - C. (and so on) – Sufficient, credible, and accurate!
- III. Warrant #2 to support the claim.
 - A. Backing #1 to support Warrant #2
 - B. Backing #2 to support Warrant #2
 - C. (and so on) – Sufficient, credible, and accurate!
- IV. Warrant #3 to support the claim.
 - A. Backing #1 to support Warrant #3
 - B. Backing #2 to support Warrant #3
 - C. (and so on) – Sufficient, credible, and accurate!
- V. Discuss counter-argument(s) and provide rebuttal.
 - A. Counter-argument #1
 - B. Rebuttal to counter argument #1
 - C. Counter-argument #2
 - D. Rebuttal to counter-argument #2
 - E. (and so on)
- VI. Conclusion
 - A. Restate claim and evidence
 - B. Implications of the argument
 - C. Summation of points/warrants
 - D. Final evocative thought to ensure the reader remembers the argument (closing hook)