

The Outsiders Argument Writing Court Case

Writing is a key means of asserting and defending your claims. We have been working taking a clear position in our writing and defending our position with textual support and clear reasoning. After reading, *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton you will perform the following task:

Remember:

- Use clear textual evidence
- Take audience and purpose under careful consideration

Task:

In our novel *The Outsiders*, Johnny Cade and Pony Boy find themselves in a gruesome fight in which a Soc named Bob is killed. There are two sides to an argument, and in this case, some may feel Johnny is guilty of murder, while others believe he is innocent.

Choose one of the following and write your essay arguing for, or against Johnny's innocence. Write your essay from the perspective of either the prosecuting attorney or the defense attorney. You MUST cite specific text to strengthen your argument.

1.) Defense Attorney:

As Johnny's defense attorney, you will argue for his innocence. Cite evidence from the text to support your claims. How would you convince a jury that Johnny did not commit murder?

2.) Prosecuting Attorney:

As the prosecuting attorney, you will prove that Johnny is *guilty* of murder and argue **against** his innocence. Cite evidence from the text to support your claims. How would you convince a jury that Johnny should be convicted of murder?

Example of textual evidence:

"And Johnny, who was the most law-abiding of us, now carried in his back pocket a six-inch switchblade. He'd use it too if he ever got jumped again. They had scared him that much. He would kill the next person who jumped him. Nobody was ever going to beat him like that again. Not over his dead body...." (p.34)

******Because this is an argumentative piece of writing, you must also include the rebuttal. In your third body paragraph provide 3 pieces of evidence that would support the other side of the argument.**

Steps:

1. Find at least 3 pieces of textual evidence (include page number)
2. Find background information on the case
3. Organize your evidence into 3 specific arguments you can use in a thesis statement

Outsiders Argumentative Outline

- I. Introduction paragraph/Opening Argument-state your side- (Thesis) (2-3 sentences)
 - 1.Hook statement.
 2. Background information, what lead up to the murder.
 3. State your thesis; remember to include both sides of the argument.

- II. Body Paragraph 1 (5-7 sentences)
 - A. Reason 1 (Include transition)-
 - 1.Evidence 1-
 - 2.Evidence 2-
 - 3.Evidence 3-

- III. Body Paragraph 2 (5-7 sentences)
 - A. Reason 2 (Include transition)-
 - 1.Evidence 1-
 - 2.Evidence 2-
 - 3.Evidence 3-

IV. Body Paragraph 3 (Rebuttal) (5-7 sentences)

A. Reason 3 (Include transition)-

1.Evidence 1-

2.Evidence 2-

3.Evidence 3-

V. Conclusion paragraph/ Closing statement (3-5 sentences)

A. Re-state your side- (Thesis)

B. Most convincing evidence of why people should support you

C. Call to Action

Name: _____

Partner Signature: _____

Peer Edit Check List

Directions: Have a partner complete and sign the following list. You must turn in your completed peer edit check list with your final draft.

Introduction Paragraph:

1. _____ Attention Grabber
2. _____ Thesis
3. _____ 3 Main ideas listed in thesis

Body Paragraph 1:

1. _____ Topic Sentence
2. _____ Transitional Word or Phrase
3. _____ 3 Supporting Details Sentences

Body Paragraph 2:

1. _____ Topic Sentence
2. _____ Transitional Word or Phrase
3. _____ 3 Supporting Details Sentences

Body Paragraph 3:

1. _____ Topic Sentence
2. _____ Transitional Word or Phrase
3. _____ 3 Supporting Details Sentences

Conclusion Paragraph:

1. _____ Restate the thesis statement from introduction
2. _____ Uses a concluding transitional word or phrase
3. _____ Sum up main ideas (1-3) in 2-3 sentences
4. _____ Bring essay to an end, leaves an impression, offers a challenge, asks a question

Convention:

1. _____ All words are spelled correctly.
2. _____ Punctuation is correctly placed.
3. _____ All sentences are written in complete sentences.
4. _____ All proper nouns and the beginning of each sentence is capitalized.
5. _____ Sentences make sense when read aloud.

Rubric/ Evaluation for The Outsiders Argumentative Essay

NAME _____ HOUR _____

CATEGORY	7	5	3	1	0
Intro Hook/Grabber (Question, fact, statistic) (1 Sentence)	Strong attention grabber that covers main idea	Somewhat interesting	Weak, but there	Attempt made	None
Intro Background Info (1-2 Sentences)	Information clearly relates to the main topic	Information somewhat relates to the main topic	Information has little to do with the main topic.	Attempt made.	None
Intro Thesis Statement (1 Sentence)	Complete thesis supports the claim (your side) and opposing viewpoint (rebuttal)	Somewhat supports the claim and opposing viewpoint	Partial thesis – only one part supported	.Weak	None
BP1 Supporting Reasons and details of the claim (x3)	All (3) strong examples and evidence that supports the claim	Most (2) examples and reasons support the claim	Only (1) example and reason supports the claim	Attempt made but not convincing	None
BP2 Supporting Reasons and details of the claim (x3)	All strong examples and evidence that supports the claim	Most (2) examples and reasons support the claim	Only (1) example and reason supports the claim	Attempt made but not convincing	None
BP3 Supporting Reasons and details of the counter claim (x3) (opposite point of view)	All strong examples and evidence that supports the claim	Most (2) examples and reasons support the claim	Only (1) example and reason supports the claim	Attempt made but not convincing	None
In-text citations (1 per body paragraph)	Includes 3 or more to strengthen argument.	Includes 2 to strengthen argument.	Includes 1 to strengthen argument.	Attempted	None
Conclusion Paragraph	Strong and compelling – has 3 components restates thesis, string points, ends with call for action	Somewhat compelling – restates thesis, string points, ends with call for action	Only 2 components	Only 1 component	None
Point of View	Consistent, fair, persuasive, unemotional and believable (No flip/flopping)	Usually consistent, fair, persuasive, unemotional and believable	Somewhat, fair, persuasive, unemotional and believable	Unfair and too emotional	Unclear

Word Choice	Rich, powerful, and appropriate vocabulary (Uses several vocabulary words from novel)	Uses some unique vocabulary	Attempts to use unique words that are specific to the topic	Writing contains repeated/overused vocabulary	Boring/comm on words
Spelling, capitalization, punctuation	No more than 2 or 3 minor errors	Several errors	Many errors	Little evidence of proofreading	No evidence of proofreading
Transitions (4 Minimum)	Uses transitional words or phrases in all body paragraphs and conclusion paragraph.	Uses 3 or less transitional words or phrases	Uses 2 or less transitional words or phrases	Uses 1 or less transitional words or phrases	Uses no transitions
Grammar (Run-ons, fragments)	No more than 2 or 3 minor errors (absolutely no run-ons or fragments)	Several errors (absolutely no run-ons or fragments)	Many errors(run-ons and/ or fragments)	Little evidence of proofreading	No evidence of proofreading
Audience (no texting format or slang)	Clearly focused on audience	Somewhat focused on audience	Rarely focused on audience	Seems unaware of audience	Not focused and no attempt to focus
MLA Formatting Throughout	Completely	Mostly in MLA format (1 error)	2 errors in formatting	3 errors in formatting	Seems unaware of requirement
Pre-writing revised/edited draft included	Pre-writing Revised/edited Draft One included along with rubric	Pre-writing Revised/edited Draft One included but rubric is missing			
Rubric					

Total _____

112 Possible Points