

Organizing an Argument

Type up the following arguments to assign to each group:

Dropout Dora — Your friend Dora has lost interest in school and her grades are suffering. As a result, she'll be repeating 10th grade. Dora has decided to quit and work more hours as a waitress to support herself. She says she'll eventually get her diploma on her own. Compose a logical argument convincing Dora to stay in school, with reasons why it is to her benefit.

Your parent is considering a job in Seattle, Washington. If your parent takes the job, it would mean that your family would relocate during Thanksgiving break. For you, this would mean adapting to a new town, a new school, and new friends. Your parent has asked for your help in making this decision. Compose a logical argument to either support moving or support staying where you are.

Polson High School is considering eliminating study hall from the school schedule. While this would force you to take another class and earn additional credits, it would eliminate time to study. Either persuade the school board to eliminate Study Hall or keep it on the schedule.

High school athletes must maintain a passing grade in each class to be eligible to participate in sports. Some teachers and coaches believe that requiring a minimum 60% grade in each class isn't a high enough standard. Therefore, it's been suggested that athletes should have a minimum of 70% in each class at the end of each week to be eligible to play. Compose an argument to either support raising the grade requirement or to keep it at the current requirement.

Many schools in California have changed their school calendar so that they are now year-round schools. They still have time off in the summer, but they don't have the traditional 3-month break. Some Illinois schools are considering following in California's footsteps. Compose an argument either in support of Polson adopting the year-round school calendar or in support of continuing the traditional school calendar.

The class divides into teams of 4-5, depending on your class size. Designate a recorder and speaker for each team. Each team takes one of the above situations and organizes an argument.

Each group needs to come up with a thesis statement and three reasons to support it (with facts or examples for each reason).