

Claimcraft — Activity Book

A Spark & Anvil activity book — puzzles, questions, and fun from Claimcraft.

Write in the book, circle your answers, and check the Answer Key at the back.

1. Claims, Evidence & Reasoning

Circle the correct answer

1. What is a claim?

(A) A statement that expresses a position or belief (B) A list of things you want to do (C) A question you ask someone (D) A fact that everyone already knows

2. Which of the following is an example of a claim?

(A) Dogs have four legs (B) Dogs make better pets than cats (C) What is your favorite pet? (D) My dog's name is Buddy

3. What is the main purpose of evidence in an argument?

(A) To confuse the other person (B) To make the argument longer (C) To support and prove a claim (D) To change the topic of discussion

4. What does the word 'reasoning' mean in an argument?

(A) Explaining how the evidence supports the claim (B) Making up a story to sound convincing (C) Listing as many facts as possible (D) Repeating the claim over and over

5. A student says: 'Recess should be longer because studies show that physical activity helps kids focus better in class.' What part of this argument is the evidence?

(A) Studies show that physical activity helps kids focus better in class (B) The student is sharing an argument (C) Recess should be longer (D) Kids need to focus in class

6. Why is it important to include reasoning in an argument, not just a claim and evidence?

(A) Because you always need exactly three parts in every sentence (B) Because reasoning replaces the need for any evidence (C) Because reasoning explains the connection between the evidence and the claim (D) Because reasoning makes the argument sound more complicated

Write the answer

7. Read this argument: 'Our school should start a recycling program. Last year, our school threw away 2,000 pounds of paper.' What is missing from this argument?

Answer: _____

8. Which of these is the best example of a supporting detail for the claim 'Reading every day helps you become a better writer'?

Answer: _____

9. How can you tell the difference between a strong claim and a weak claim?

Answer: _____

10. A student writes: 'Helmets should be required for all bike riders.' Which piece of evidence would best support this claim?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Your friend claims: 'Our town should build a new park.' Write a piece of reasoning that connects this evidence to the claim: 'A survey shows 80% of families in our town want more outdoor spaces.' How would you connect them? →

2. You want to argue that school lunch menus should include more fruits and vegetables. Which type of evidence would be most convincing? →

3. Use the claim-evidence-reasoning structure to fill in the blank. Claim: 'Students should have homework breaks on weekends.' Evidence: 'Research shows rest improves memory.' Reasoning: _ → _

4. Your class is debating whether the school day should start later. Identify a strong piece of evidence you could use to support the claim that school should start at 9:00 AM instead of 8:00 AM. →

5. Create a simple claim-evidence-reasoning argument about why libraries are important to communities. Which of the following is the best complete argument? →

(A) Weekend breaks let students' brains rest, which helps them remember what they learned during the week

(B) Sleep research shows that children ages 9-12 need 9-12 hours of sleep and often do not get enough with early start times

(C) A health study showing that kids who eat more fruits and vegetables perform better in school

(D) Since most families want outdoor spaces, a new park would meet the needs of the community

(E) Libraries are important because they provide free access to books and computers. A report found that 60% of library users rely on them for internet access. This means libraries help people who cannot afford these resources at home.

2. Fact vs. Opinion & Source Evaluation

Circle the correct answer

11. What is a fact?

(A) A statement that can be proven true or false with evidence (B) A statement that everyone agrees with (C) Something that sounds important and official (D) A sentence that uses numbers or dates

12. What is an opinion?

(A) A sentence that starts with the word 'I' (B) A statement that has been proven by scientists (C) A statement that expresses a personal belief, feeling, or judgment (D) A question someone asks during a debate

13. What is a primary source?

(A) An original document or firsthand account created during the time of an event (B) A textbook that summarizes many events (C) The most popular source on a topic (D) The first result that appears in a web search

14. Which signal word most often indicates an opinion?

(A) In the year (B) Research shows (C) According to (D) Should

15. Which of these statements is a fact?

(A) Water tastes better when it is cold (B) Everyone should drink eight glasses of water per day (C) Water is the most refreshing drink available (D) Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius at sea level

16. Why might a website that sells sports equipment NOT be the best source for information about which sport is healthiest?

(A) Because websites cannot contain facts (B) Because only books are reliable sources of information (C) Because the website has a financial reason to promote certain sports over others (D) Because sports equipment companies do not know anything about sports

Write the answer

17. A student reads: 'Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809. He was the greatest president in American history.' Which part is a fact and which is an opinion?

Answer: _____

18. What does it mean for a source to be 'reliable'?

Answer: _____

19. How is a primary source different from a secondary source?

Answer: _____

20. Why is it important to check facts using more than one source?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Your class is researching endangered animals. Which source would be most reliable for finding current data on how many tigers are left in the wild? →

2. You read a news article that says: 'The city council voted 7-2 to approve a new bike lane on Main Street. This is a wonderful decision that will make our city much better.' Identify the fact and the opinion in this passage. →

3. A classmate found information about climate change on a website. How can you help them check whether the website is a reliable source? →

4. Your teacher asks you to find a primary source about the American Revolution. Which of these would you choose? →

5. You are writing a report about healthy eating. You find a fact that says: 'The USDA recommends that children eat 1.5 to 2 cups of fruit per day.' How would you verify this fact? →

(A) Check who created the website, whether the authors are experts, and whether other reliable sources agree with the information

(B) The vote count (7-2) is a fact; calling it 'wonderful' and saying it will make the city 'much better' is an opinion

(C) The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) website, which tracks animal populations using scientific surveys

(D) Visit the official USDA website to see if this recommendation is listed in their dietary guidelines

(E) A letter written by a soldier who fought in the Battle of Yorktown in 1781

3. Logical Fallacies

Circle the correct answer

21. What is an ad hominem fallacy?

(A) Making an argument that is too complicated for the audience to understand (B) Agreeing with someone just to avoid conflict (C) Attacking the person making an argument instead of addressing the argument itself (D) Using facts that are outdated or no longer relevant

22. What is a straw man fallacy?

(A) Misrepresenting someone's argument to make it easier to attack (B) Using a made-up character to explain your point (C) Making an argument that is so weak it falls apart immediately (D) Building your argument step by step like building something

23. What is the bandwagon fallacy?

(A) Playing music to distract people from the real argument (B) Presenting facts that most scientists agree with (C) Arguing that something must be true or good because many people believe it or do it (D) Joining a debate team to learn how to argue better

24. What is a false dilemma fallacy?

(A) Asking a question that has no correct answer (B) Making a choice between two equally good options (C) Presenting only two options when there are actually more possibilities (D) Lying about the consequences of a decision

25. A student says: 'We shouldn't listen to Maya's idea about the science fair because she got a C on her last test.' Which logical fallacy is this?

(A) Straw man, because it distorts Maya's argument (B) Bandwagon, because it follows what most students think (C) Red herring, because it introduces an unrelated topic (D) Ad hominem, because it attacks Maya's grades instead of evaluating her science fair idea

26. Sam argues: 'We should have 30 minutes of recess.' Jordan responds: 'So you think we should just play all day and never learn anything?' What fallacy is Jordan committing?

(A) False dilemma, because Jordan is presenting only two options (B) Straw man, because Jordan is exaggerating Sam's argument to make it easier to reject (C) Bandwagon, because Jordan is assuming everyone agrees (D) Ad hominem, because Jordan is insulting Sam

Write the answer

27. A commercial says: 'Nine out of ten kids choose our sneakers. Don't be the one left out!' What fallacy does this use?

Answer: _____

28. What is a red herring fallacy?

Answer: _____

29. During a debate about whether homework should be reduced, a student says: 'Well, at least our school has air conditioning, unlike some schools.' What fallacy is this?

Answer: _____

30. A parent tells their child: 'Either you get straight A's or you'll never succeed in life.' Why is this an example of a false dilemma?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

- 1.** During a class debate about school lunches, a student says: 'You only want healthy lunches because you think you're better than everyone else.' Identify the fallacy and explain how to respond appropriately. →
- 2.** Your friend wants to convince the principal to allow phones during lunch. They plan to say: 'If we can't use phones at lunch, then the school doesn't trust us at all and might as well put cameras everywhere.' Help your friend avoid this fallacy by identifying it and suggesting a better approach. →
- 3.** You notice a classmate's persuasive essay contains this sentence: 'Everyone knows that video games are bad for kids, so we should ban them.' Rewrite this argument without the fallacy. →
- 4.** A student argues: 'We should either have school five days a week or not at all. Since we obviously need school, five days is the only answer.' How would you identify and fix this false dilemma? →
- 5.** During a discussion about whether the school should get a new playground, a student says: 'Before we talk about playgrounds, let me tell you about the amazing field trip I went on last weekend.' How would you politely redirect this red herring? →

(A) Acknowledge their field trip briefly, then say something like: 'That sounds great, but right now we need to focus on the playground discussion. Do you have thoughts on that topic?'

(B) This is a straw man fallacy mixed with a slippery slope. A better approach is to present specific reasons why phone use during lunch would be beneficial and responsible

(C) This is an ad hominem fallacy. An appropriate response is to redirect the discussion back to the evidence about why healthy lunches are beneficial

(D) Point out that there are other options between five days and zero days, such as four-day school weeks, which some districts already use successfully

(E) Research from the American Academy of Pediatrics shows that excessive screen time can affect children's sleep patterns, so parents should set reasonable time limits for video games

4. Argument Structure & Counterarguments

Circle the correct answer

31. What is a thesis statement?

(A) A summary of all the evidence in an argument (B) A sentence that clearly states the main argument or position of an essay or speech (C) The first sentence of any paragraph (D) A question that the essay will try to answer

32. What is a counterargument?

(A) An argument that opposes or challenges the main claim (B) A personal attack against the person you are debating (C) A second argument that supports the main claim with more evidence (D) A conclusion that summarizes everything in the essay

33. What is a rebuttal?

(A) A louder repetition of the original argument (B) A new topic introduced to change the subject of the debate (C) An apology for making an argument that someone disagrees with (D) A response that explains why a counterargument is wrong or less convincing than the original claim

34. What is the purpose of a conclusion in an argumentative essay?

(A) To introduce a completely new argument the reader has not seen before (B) To admit that the other side might actually be right (C) To restate the thesis, summarize key evidence, and leave the reader with a final thought (D) To list every piece of evidence mentioned in the essay

35. In a well-structured argumentative essay, what does the body section contain?

(A) Supporting paragraphs that each present a reason with evidence and reasoning to support the thesis (B) A single long paragraph that lists all the facts the writer found (C) Questions for the reader to think about on their own (D) The writer's personal story about why they care about the topic

36. Why is it important to address counterarguments in a persuasive essay?

(A) Because it shows the writer has considered other viewpoints and makes the argument more convincing (B) Because the teacher requires a certain number of paragraphs (C) Because it proves that the other side has no valid points at all (D) Because it confuses the reader into agreeing with you

Write the answer

37. Which of the following is the strongest thesis statement for a persuasive essay about school start times?

Answer: _____

38. What is the difference between a rebuttal and simply disagreeing with someone?

Answer: _____

39. What makes a conclusion effective in an argumentative essay?

Answer: _____

40. How does the body of an argument relate to the thesis statement?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. You are writing a persuasive essay arguing that recess should be longer. Your thesis is: 'Recess should be extended to 30 minutes because it improves focus, reduces behavior problems, and supports physical health.' Write a topic sentence for the first body paragraph. →

2. Your classmate's essay argues that students should learn a second language starting in kindergarten. A counterargument is: 'Young children might get confused by learning two languages at once.' Write an effective rebuttal. →

3. You are helping a friend write a thesis statement for an essay about whether zoos are beneficial. They wrote: 'Zoos are interesting places.' How would you help them strengthen this into a proper thesis? →

4. You are writing a conclusion for an essay arguing that schools should offer free breakfast to all students. Your thesis was: 'Schools should provide free breakfast because it improves academic performance, reduces hunger-related health problems, and ensures equity for all students.' Write an effective conclusion. →

5. Your essay argues that homework should be limited to 30 minutes per night for fifth graders. Anticipate a counterargument and write a counterargument-rebuttal paragraph. Which of the following best accomplishes this? →

(A) First, extending recess would improve students' ability to focus during class time

(B) Free school breakfast is not just a meal — it is an investment in every student's success. When children arrive at school nourished and ready to learn, test scores rise, health improves, and the gap between students narrows. Schools that feed their students feed the future.

(C) Some may argue that limiting homework reduces practice time that students need to master skills. However, a Stanford University study found that students who did more than 30 minutes of homework per night showed increased stress without significant academic gains. Quality practice in shorter sessions is more effective than lengthy assignments that lead to burnout.

(D) Rewrite it to take a clear position with reasons, such as: 'Zoos play a vital role in wildlife conservation by protecting endangered species, funding scientific research, and educating the public about biodiversity'

(E) Research from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages shows that young children's brains are actually better at absorbing multiple languages than older students, and bilingual children show no signs of language confusion by age five

5. Evidence Quality & Evaluation

Circle the correct answer

41. What is the difference between strong evidence and weak evidence?

(A) Strong evidence comes from adults; weak evidence comes from children (B) Strong evidence is long and detailed; weak evidence is short (C) Strong evidence is specific, verifiable, and comes from reliable sources; weak evidence is vague, unverifiable, or based on personal opinion (D) Strong evidence uses big words; weak evidence uses simple language

42. What is anecdotal evidence?

(A) Evidence collected through surveys of many people (B) Evidence based on personal stories or individual experiences rather than systematic research (C) Evidence that has been published in a scientific journal (D) Evidence that uses numbers and statistics to prove a point

43. What is statistical evidence?

(A) Any evidence that includes a number or percentage (B) Evidence based on numerical data collected from research, surveys, or experiments involving many cases (C) Evidence that a mathematician has personally approved (D) Evidence that uses the word 'statistics' in the sentence

44. What is expert testimony?

(A) Testimony from any adult because adults know more than children (B) A statement made under oath in a courtroom (C) Statements or opinions from a person who has specialized knowledge or professional experience in a specific field (D) An opinion that most people in a community share

45. A student claims: 'Video games improve problem-solving skills.' They support this with: 'My friend plays video games and he is good at solving puzzles.' Why is this evidence weak?

(A) Because it is a single anecdote that cannot prove a general claim about all video game players (B) Because video games do not actually involve problem-solving (C) Because the student should have used a longer story (D) Because the friend might be lying about being good at puzzles

46. Why is statistical evidence generally considered stronger than anecdotal evidence?

(A) Because numbers are always more truthful than words (B) Because statistics can never be manipulated or misrepresented (C) Because only scientists can produce statistical evidence (D) Because statistics reveal patterns across many cases, reducing the chance that results are due to individual circumstances

Write the answer

47. When evaluating expert testimony, what is the most important thing to consider?

Answer: _____

48. What does it mean for evidence to be 'relevant' to an argument?

Answer: _____

49. How can strong evidence become weak if it is not relevant?

Answer: _____

50. A company claims their new vitamin supplement 'makes kids smarter.' They provide a testimonial from a parent who says: 'My daughter started taking these vitamins and got an A on her next test.' What makes this evidence weak?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. You are arguing that schools should provide more mental health support. Which of the following would be the strongest evidence to include? →

2. A classmate argues: 'We should have a longer lunch period because I talked to three students and they all said they don't have enough time to eat.' Improve this evidence by suggesting a stronger alternative. →

3. You read the claim: 'Drinking milk makes bones stronger.' You find these two sources. Source A: 'A study published in the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research found that calcium-rich diets, including dairy, increase bone density in children aged 8-12 by an average of 6%.' Source B: 'My uncle is a farmer who drinks milk every day and has never broken a bone.' Select the stronger evidence and explain your choice. →

4. An advertisement claims: 'Dr. Johnson, a dentist with 20 years of experience, recommends our toothpaste for the whitest smile.' Is Dr. Johnson's testimony strong evidence for this specific claim? →

5. Your essay argues that recess improves classroom behavior. Which piece of evidence is most relevant to this specific claim? →

(A) A study from Pediatrics journal showing that students who had at least 20 minutes of recess demonstrated 15% fewer behavioral disruptions in the following class period

(B) Source A is stronger because it is a published study with specific measurements from a peer-reviewed journal, while Source B is a single anecdote that does not prove causation

(C) It is somewhat relevant because Dr. Johnson is a dental expert, but it may be biased since the company likely paid for the endorsement, and 'whitest smile' is a subjective, unmeasured claim

(D) A report from the National Alliance on Mental Illness showing that 1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year, and schools with

counseling programs see 25% fewer behavioral incidents

(E) Conduct a school-wide survey asking all students about their lunch experience, then report the percentage who feel rushed, along with data on how much food is being thrown away due to time constraints

6. Persuasion & Rhetorical Strategies

Circle the correct answer

51. What does 'ethos' mean in rhetoric?

(A) An appeal to logic and reasoning (B) An appeal to the speaker's credibility, character, or trustworthiness (C) An appeal to the majority opinion (D) An appeal to the audience's emotions

52. What does 'pathos' mean in rhetoric?

(A) An appeal to traditional values and customs (B) An appeal to the audience's emotions such as sympathy, fear, or hope (C) An appeal to the speaker's personal experience (D) An appeal to facts and statistics

53. What does 'logos' mean in rhetoric?

(A) An appeal to the audience's sense of humor (B) An appeal using a company's brand or symbol (C) An appeal to logic, reasoning, and evidence (D) An appeal based on repeating a message many times

54. What is a rhetorical question?

(A) A question that only experts can answer correctly (B) A question asked at the beginning of every essay (C) A question asked for effect that is not meant to be answered, because the answer is obvious or implied (D) A question that has multiple correct answers

55. A public health campaign says: 'As a doctor with 30 years of experience treating respiratory diseases, I urge you to support clean air regulations.' Which rhetorical appeal is this primarily using?

(A) Ethos, because the speaker establishes their medical expertise and experience to build credibility (B) Logos, because the speaker mentions a specific number of years (C) Repetition, because the speaker emphasizes their qualifications (D) Pathos, because the speaker is trying to make people feel scared about respiratory disease

56. A charity advertisement shows a photograph of a shivering puppy in the rain with the text: 'Right now, thousands of animals are suffering without shelter. Will you be the one to change their story?' Which rhetorical appeal is this primarily using?

(A) Ethos, because the charity is a trustworthy organization (B) Rhetorical questions, because it asks a question that does not need a real answer (C) Logos,

because it includes the statistic about thousands of animals (D) Pathos, because the image and language are designed to evoke feelings of sympathy and compassion

Write the answer

57. A student's speech includes: 'According to a National Science Foundation study, schools that increased science lab time by one hour per week saw a 17% improvement in students' scientific reasoning skills. Furthermore, these students performed 12% better on standardized tests.' Which rhetorical appeal is this primarily using?

Answer: _____

58. Why do speakers use repetition as a rhetorical strategy?

Answer: _____

59. How does a rhetorical question differ from a regular question in an argument?

Answer: _____

60. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech includes the repeated phrase 'I have a dream' eight times. Which rhetorical strategies does this demonstrate?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. You are writing a persuasive speech to convince your school board to add a community service requirement. Use ethos effectively. Which opening would best establish your credibility? →

2. You want to persuade your classmates to participate in a beach cleanup. Write a sentence that effectively uses pathos. →

3. Write a persuasive paragraph about school funding that effectively combines logos and a rhetorical question. →

4. A student wants to persuade the principal to allow a mural on the school's exterior wall. They plan to use repetition in their speech. Which approach demonstrates effective use of repetition? →

5. Your class is writing persuasive letters to the mayor about improving public parks. Draft a paragraph that balances ethos, pathos, and logos. Which paragraph best achieves this balance? →

(A) As a student who has volunteered over 200 hours at the local food bank and tutoring center, I have seen firsthand how community service transforms both the volunteer and the community

(B) As residents who use Riverside Park daily, we have witnessed its deterioration firsthand (ethos). The broken swings and overgrown paths are not just eyesores — they represent broken promises to the children who deserve safe places to play (pathos). A Parks Department study confirms that renovated parks increase property

values by 9% and reduce neighborhood crime by 14% (logos).

(C) Imagine a sea turtle tangled in plastic, struggling to breathe — every piece of trash we remove from the beach could save a life that cannot speak for itself

(D) A mural would inspire creativity in every student who walks through our doors. A mural would transform a blank wall into a symbol of our community. A mural would show the world what our school stands for.

(E) Studies from the Education Policy Institute show that every additional \$1,000 spent per student results in a 4% increase in graduation rates. When the evidence so clearly links funding to student success, can we really afford NOT to invest in our schools?

7. Media Literacy & Bias Detection

Circle the correct answer

61. What is media bias?

(A) Any news story that includes the reporter's name (B) A mistake that a journalist makes when reporting facts (C) A tendency in reporting to favor one perspective, group, or viewpoint over others in a way that distorts balanced coverage (D) News coverage that focuses on negative events

62. What is propaganda?

(A) Information that is deliberately spread to promote a particular political cause, viewpoint, or agenda, often using misleading or emotional tactics (B) A formal speech given by a government official, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) Information that is shared on social media platforms, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) Any advertisement that appears on television, as this is what research and standard practice suggests

63. What is the difference between a news article and an opinion piece in a newspaper?

(A) A news article is always on the front page and an opinion piece is always on the back page (B) A news article is written by journalists and an opinion piece is written by readers (C) A news article reports facts and events objectively, while an opinion piece expresses the author's personal viewpoint on an issue (D) A news article is longer and more detailed than an opinion piece

64. What is fact-checking?

(A) The process of verifying the accuracy of claims, statements, or information using reliable, independent sources (B) Checking how many people have shared or liked a piece of information online (C) Making sure an article has no spelling or grammar mistakes (D) Reading a claim and deciding whether you personally believe it

65. A news website publishes an article with the headline: 'DISASTER: Mayor's Reckless Plan Will Destroy Our City.' What type of bias does this headline demonstrate?

(A) Bias through word choice and sensationalism — words like 'DISASTER,' 'reckless,' and 'destroy' are emotionally charged and present the plan negatively before the reader learns any facts (B) Bias through placement, because headlines always appear at the top (C) Bias through source selection, because the headline quotes the mayor (D) No bias, because the headline is just summarizing the article

66. Which of these is an example of the propaganda technique called 'transfer'?

(A) A political candidate standing in front of the American flag and the Statue of Liberty during their speech to associate themselves with patriotism (B) A candidate listing their specific policy proposals and budget numbers, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (C) A candidate debating their opponent on television, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) A candidate giving an interview to a newspaper reporter, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

Write the answer

67. Why is it important to distinguish between news reporting and opinion content when consuming media?

Answer: _____

68. How can social media algorithms create 'filter bubbles' that affect what information people see?

Answer: _____

69. What are the basic steps of effective fact-checking when you encounter a claim online?

Answer: _____

70. What is the propaganda technique called 'name-calling'?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. You come across a social media post claiming: 'Scientists have confirmed that eating chocolate every day prevents heart disease.' The post has 50,000 shares. Apply fact-checking steps to evaluate this claim. What should you do first? →

2. You are reading two news articles about a new city park proposal. Article A uses the headline 'Community Celebrates New Green Space Initiative' and Article B uses the headline 'Taxpayers Forced to Fund Unnecessary Park Project.' Identify the bias in each headline and rewrite one as a neutral headline. →

3. Your teacher asks you to evaluate whether a popular YouTube video about nutrition

is news or opinion. The video features a fitness influencer saying: 'Based on my experience, protein shakes are essential for growing kids. Forget what outdated doctors say — this is what actually works.' Classify this content and explain why. →

4. A classmate shares an article from a website you have never heard of. The article claims that a common food ingredient is dangerous, uses scary language, and asks you to share it with everyone you know. Apply media literacy skills to determine what you should do. →

5. You want to identify propaganda techniques in a political advertisement. The ad shows a candidate shaking hands with soldiers, hugging children, and visiting a factory, while a narrator says: 'A real leader who stands with our troops, our families, and our workers.' Identify the propaganda techniques being used. →

(A) This is opinion content disguised as advice. The influencer uses personal experience rather than research, dismisses medical professionals without evidence, and presents their viewpoint as established fact

(B) Article A has a positive bias ('celebrates,' implies universal support) and Article B has a negative bias ('forced,' 'unnecessary,' implies the park is unwanted). A neutral headline: 'City Council Approves Funding for New Park; Residents Divided'

(C) Transfer (associating the candidate with respected groups), glittering generalities ('real leader,' 'stands with'), and card stacking (showing only positive images while omitting any negative aspects of the candidate's record)

(D) Identify the original source — check whether the post links to an actual scientific study, and if so, what the study actually concluded versus what the post claims

(E) Before sharing, check the website's credibility, look for the same information on established health organization websites like the FDA or WHO, check whether the article cites specific studies, and consider whether the emotional language is designed to manipulate rather than inform

8. Ethical Reasoning & Complex Arguments

Circle the correct answer

71. What is an ethical framework?

(A) A list of rules that a school creates for student conduct (B) A personal opinion about what is popular or trendy (C) A set of laws passed by a government to regulate behavior (D) A structured set of principles or values used to guide decision-making about what is right, wrong, fair, or just

72. What is a moral dilemma?

(A) A situation where someone is forced to break the law (B) A situation in which a person must choose between two or more options that each involve a conflict between important moral values (C) A disagreement between two people about a factual question (D) A problem that has an obvious right answer once you think carefully

73. What does it mean to consider multiple perspectives on an issue?

(A) Agreeing with the opinion that is most popular among your peers (B) Reading the same article from several different websites (C) Finding evidence that supports only your own position (D) Examining an issue from the viewpoints of different people, groups, or stakeholders who may be affected in different ways

74. What is a nuanced argument?

(A) An argument that takes a strong position and refuses to compromise (B) An argument that acknowledges complexity, considers exceptions and limitations, and avoids oversimplifying an issue into simple right-or-wrong terms (C) An argument that uses long and complicated vocabulary to sound impressive (D) An argument that avoids taking any position on a controversial topic

75. In utilitarianism, how should a person decide what action to take?

(A) By doing whatever benefits the individual making the decision the most (B) By choosing the action that produces the greatest overall good or happiness for the greatest number of people affected (C) By following the rules set by authority figures regardless of the outcome (D) By asking what a virtuous role model would do in the same situation

76. Why are moral dilemmas considered difficult even for thoughtful people?

(A) Because most people have not studied enough philosophy to understand ethics (B) Because society has not yet agreed on a single set of moral rules everyone must follow (C) Because the correct answer is always hidden and requires special knowledge to find (D) Because they involve genuine conflicts between important values, so any choice requires sacrificing something morally significant

Write the answer

77. How does considering multiple perspectives strengthen an argument about a controversial issue?

Answer: _____

78. How does a nuanced argument differ from an argument that uses the false dilemma fallacy?

Answer: _____

79. Why is civil discourse important when discussing topics where people strongly disagree?

Answer: _____

80. What does rights-based ethics emphasize when determining the right course of action?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A school is debating whether to ban smartphones during the school day. Using a utilitarian framework, how would you begin to evaluate this policy? →

2. A student discovers that their best friend cheated on an important exam. The student values both honesty and loyalty. Apply ethical reasoning to explain the core conflict in this moral dilemma. →

3. A town is deciding whether to build a new factory that would create 500 jobs but increase air pollution in a nearby neighborhood. Identify at least two different stakeholder perspectives that should be considered. →

4. Rewrite the following oversimplified claim as a more nuanced argument: 'Social media is bad for teenagers.' →

5. During a class discussion about immigration policy, one student says: 'If you disagree with me, you obviously don't care about people.' Apply the principles of civil discourse to explain what is wrong with this statement and suggest a better alternative. →

(A) The statement attacks the character of those who disagree rather than engaging with their ideas. A better alternative would be: 'I believe this policy helps people, and I'd like to understand why you see it differently.'

(B) By identifying all stakeholders affected and weighing the total benefits of the ban (fewer distractions, better focus) against the total costs (reduced communication, safety concerns)

(C) The conflict is between the value of honesty and fairness (reporting the cheating) and the value of loyalty and friendship (protecting their friend from consequences)

(D) Workers who need employment and economic opportunity; residents of the nearby neighborhood who would breathe polluted air and face potential health risks

(E) While social media poses risks to teenagers, such as cyberbullying and reduced sleep, it also offers benefits like social connection and community building, so its impact depends on how it is used and moderated

9. Evidence Evaluation Methods

Circle the correct answer

81. You are given this claim: 'Planting trees in cities makes them better places to live.' You have two pieces of evidence: (A) Trees produce oxygen and cool the air by up to 10 degrees. (B) My neighbor has a nice tree in her yard. Which is stronger evidence, and why?

(A) Evidence A is stronger because it provides specific, measurable facts about how trees help cities (B) Evidence B is stronger because it is a real story about a real person (C) Neither is strong because trees do not change a whole city (D) Both are equally strong because they both mention trees

82. A news article and an advertisement both claim that a new breakfast cereal 'helps kids focus better in school.' The news article cites a university study; the advertisement is paid for by the cereal company. Evaluate which claim you should trust more and why.

(A) Neither is trustworthy because breakfast cereal cannot possibly affect focus (B) Both are equally trustworthy because they make the same claim (C) The news article's claim is more trustworthy because it is based on independent research, while the advertisement has a profit motive to make the cereal sound beneficial (D) The advertisement is more trustworthy because the company knows its own product best

83. Your teacher presents three arguments about whether schools should require uniforms. Argument 1: 'Every good school requires uniforms.' Argument 2: 'Either we require uniforms or students will bully each other over clothing.' Argument 3: 'A 2019 study found that schools with uniforms reported 12% fewer dress-code violations and no significant change in bullying rates.' Which argument is most logically sound?

(A) Argument 3 is most logically sound because it uses specific, verifiable evidence without committing any fallacy. Argument 1 uses bandwagon logic and Argument 2 uses a false dilemma (B) Argument 2 is best because it identifies a clear problem and solution (C) All three are equally valid because they all support uniforms (D) Argument 1 is best because good schools are role models

84. What is a counterargument?

(A) A second argument that supports the main claim with more evidence (B) An argument that opposes or challenges the main claim (C) A conclusion that summarizes everything in the essay (D) A personal attack against the person you are debating

85. An essay argues: 'Arts education should be funded equally with STEM subjects.' It includes the following evidence: 'Students in arts programs develop 23% stronger critical thinking skills (Americans for the Arts, 2022), show improved emotional intelligence (Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence), and score 12 points higher on SATs (College Board data).' Evaluate the overall evidence quality in this passage.

(A) The evidence is weak because it mentions too many different studies (B) The evidence is very strong because it includes three different credible sources, specific measurable outcomes, and addresses multiple dimensions of the claim. Having diverse evidence from different organizations strengthens the argument significantly (C) The evidence is moderate because SAT scores are not the same as equal funding (D) The evidence is strong but would be better if it only used one source to avoid confusion, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

86. Compare these two approaches to persuading a school board to fund a robotics program. Approach A relies heavily on pathos: 'Without robotics, our children will be left behind in a world that is leaving them in the dust. Their dreams of becoming engineers will be crushed!' Approach B relies heavily on logos: 'Schools with robotics programs see a 24% increase in STEM course enrollment and a 15% improvement in problem-solving assessment scores, according to a Carnegie Mellon University study.' Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of each approach.

(A) Approach A creates urgency but uses fear-based emotional manipulation without evidence. Approach B provides strong data but may not engage the audience emotionally. The strongest argument would combine both — data supported by genuine emotional resonance (B) Approach A is stronger because school boards are more moved by emotional appeals than data (C) Approach B is the only valid approach because school boards should only consider facts (D) Both approaches are equally weak because neither mentions how much the program would cost

Write the answer

87. Analyze how the same news event can be covered differently. The event: A new law requires restaurants to display calorie counts on menus. Coverage A: 'New law empowers consumers with nutritional information to make healthier choices.' Coverage B: 'Government overreach: New law burdens restaurant owners with costly compliance requirements.' Explain how each coverage reflects a different bias.

Answer: _____

88. A classmate argues that 'zoos are either totally cruel or totally wonderful.' Rewrite this argument to demonstrate nuanced thinking by incorporating at least one concession and one qualification.

Answer: _____

89. Look at these two claims about school uniforms. Claim A: 'School uniforms are good.' Claim B: 'School uniforms reduce bullying related to clothing differences.' Which claim is better for building an argument, and what makes it better?

Answer: _____

90. What is a fact?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Your friend wants to convince the principal to allow phones during lunch. They plan to say: 'If we can't use phones at lunch, then the school doesn't trust us at all and might as well put cameras everywhere.' Help your friend avoid this fallacy by identifying it and suggesting a better approach. →
2. You are writing a conclusion for an essay arguing that schools should offer free breakfast to all students. Your thesis was: 'Schools should provide free breakfast because it improves academic performance, reduces hunger-related health problems, and ensures equity for all students.' Write an effective conclusion. →
3. You are arguing that schools should provide more mental health support. Which of the following would be the strongest evidence to include? →
4. A speech about funding public libraries uses this passage: 'Invest in libraries. Invest in knowledge. Invest in community. Invest in the future.' Analyze how repetition functions in this specific passage and what effect it creates. →
5. What are the basic steps of effective fact-checking when you encounter a claim online? →

(A) This is a straw man fallacy mixed with a slippery slope. A better approach is to present specific reasons why phone use during lunch would be beneficial and responsible

(B) Check the source, find the original claim, look for verification from multiple independent and reputable sources, and check the date and context of the information

(C) Free school breakfast is not just a meal — it is an investment in every student's success. When children arrive at school nourished and ready to learn, test scores rise, health improves, and the gap between students narrows. Schools that feed their students feed the future.

(D) The repeated 'Invest in' creates parallel structure that links libraries to increasingly abstract and important concepts (knowledge, community, future), elevating libraries from a building to a symbol of society's values

(E) A report from the National Alliance on Mental Illness showing that 1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year, and schools with counseling programs see 25% fewer behavioral incidents

10. Logical Fallacies

Circle the correct answer

91. You want to argue that school lunch menus should include more fruits and vegetables. Which type of evidence would be most convincing?

(A) A story about how you really like apples, and this principle applies across similar situations (B) A health study showing that kids who eat more fruits and vegetables perform better in school (C) A picture of a colorful salad, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) A list of your favorite vegetables, and this is the standard approach used in most cases

92. A classmate found information about climate change on a website. How can you help them check whether the website is a reliable source?

(A) Check whether the website appears on the first page of search results (B) Check who created the website, whether the authors are experts, and whether other reliable sources agree with the information (C) Look at how many people have visited the website (D) See if the website has a professional design with nice colors and graphics

93. A student argues: 'We should either have school five days a week or not at all. Since we obviously need school, five days is the only answer.' How would you identify and fix this false dilemma?

(A) Agree with the student because five days is what most schools already do (B) Point out that there are other options between five days and zero days, such as four-day school weeks, which some districts already use successfully (C) Argue that school should be seven days a week to be truly effective (D) Ignore the argument because school schedules cannot be changed

94. Examine this counterargument-rebuttal section: 'Critics say that art classes waste time that could be spent on math and reading. However, art classes are really fun and students enjoy them.' Analyze whether this rebuttal effectively addresses the counterargument.

(A) The rebuttal is weak because it does not address the concern about academic time — saying art is 'fun' does not counter the argument that time could be better spent on core academics (B) The rebuttal is adequate because it acknowledges the other side (C) The rebuttal is effective because fun activities are important for children (D) The rebuttal is strong because it shows art has value to students

95. When evaluating expert testimony, what is the most important thing to consider?

(A) Whether the expert is famous and well-known to the public (B) Whether the expert agrees with what you already believe (C) Whether the expert's qualifications are relevant to the specific topic being discussed (D) Whether the expert has appeared on television

96. Analyze this advertisement: 'Olympic gold medalist Sarah Chen trusts NutriBoost for her training nutrition. Shouldn't you?' Identify ALL the rhetorical strategies present.

(A) Ethos (celebrity athlete endorsement implying expertise), pathos (desire to be like an Olympic champion), and a rhetorical question (implying you should trust it too)

(B) Only pathos, because the ad makes you want to be like an Olympian (C) Only ethos, because a famous athlete is endorsing the product (D) Only logos, because it mentions a specific product and a real person

Write the answer

97. You are reading two news articles about a new city park proposal. Article A uses the headline 'Community Celebrates New Green Space Initiative' and Article B uses the headline 'Taxpayers Forced to Fund Unnecessary Park Project.' Identify the bias in each headline and rewrite one as a neutral headline.

Answer: _____

98. What does rights-based ethics emphasize when determining the right course of action?

Answer: _____

99. Your friend claims: 'Our town should build a new park.' Write a piece of reasoning that connects this evidence to the claim: 'A survey shows 80% of families in our town want more outdoor spaces.' How would you connect them?

Answer: _____

100. A student writes: 'Dogs are the most popular pet in America. Over 65 million U.S. households own a dog, according to the American Pet Products Association.' Another student writes: 'Dogs are the best pets because they are loyal and fun.' Compare these two statements. What is the key difference?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A student says: 'We shouldn't listen to Maya's idea about the science fair because she got a C on her last test.' Which logical fallacy is this? →
2. What is the difference between a rebuttal and simply disagreeing with someone? →
3. What is the difference between strong evidence and weak evidence? →
4. You are writing a persuasive speech to convince your school board to add a community service requirement. Use ethos effectively. Which opening would best establish your credibility? →
5. A media company publishes a study showing that their own news coverage is the most trusted in America. Evaluate the credibility of this study considering who conducted it. →

(A) As a student who has volunteered over 200 hours at the local food bank and tutoring center, I have seen firsthand how community service transforms both the volunteer and the community

(B) Ad hominem, because it attacks Maya's grades instead of evaluating her science

fair idea

(C) Strong evidence is specific, verifiable, and comes from reliable sources; weak evidence is vague, unverifiable, or based on personal opinion

(D) A rebuttal provides evidence and reasoning to explain why the opposing point is weaker, while disagreeing just says 'I don't agree' without support

(E) The study has a severe conflict of interest because the company conducting the research stands to benefit financially from positive results. An independent study by a university or research firm would be far more credible

11. Persuasive Techniques

Circle the correct answer

101. Use the claim-evidence-reasoning structure to fill in the blank. Claim: 'Students should have homework breaks on weekends.' Evidence: 'Research shows rest improves memory.' Reasoning: ____

(A) Weekend breaks let students' brains rest, which helps them remember what they learned during the week (B) Some students finish homework quickly (C) Homework is assigned by teachers every day (D) Weekends are fun because you can play outside

102. Design a fact-checking plan for a claim you encounter online: 'Drinking lemon water every morning cures the common cold.' Which of the following best represents a thorough fact-checking approach?

(A) Search medical databases or the CDC website for studies on lemon water and colds, check if doctors or health organizations support the claim, and look for the original source of the claim (B) Ask five friends if they drink lemon water and whether they get sick, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (C) Try drinking lemon water for a week and see if you feel healthier, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) Look for the claim on social media and see how many people shared it, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

103. A school newspaper publishes two letters about extending the school year. Letter A: 'If we extend the school year by two weeks, students will have no summer at all and will burn out completely.' Letter B: 'An additional two weeks could provide valuable review time, though the school should monitor student well-being.' Evaluate which letter uses more honest reasoning.

(A) Letter B uses more honest reasoning because it presents the proposal accurately and acknowledges concerns. Letter A exaggerates two weeks into 'no summer at all,' which is a straw man (B) Letter A is better because it takes a stronger stance on the issue (C) Letter A is more honest because it represents how students truly feel about

losing summer (D) Both letters are equally honest because they express different opinions

104. Your essay argues that homework should be limited to 30 minutes per night for fifth graders. Anticipate a counterargument and write a counterargument-rebuttal paragraph. Which of the following best accomplishes this?

(A) Teachers give too much homework because they do not realize how busy students are after school, since this follows the standard patterns of the English language (B) Homework has always been a part of school. Some students do it and some do not. It depends on the student, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) Some may argue that limiting homework reduces practice time that students need to master skills. However, a Stanford University study found that students who did more than 30 minutes of homework per night showed increased stress without significant academic gains. Quality practice in shorter sessions is more effective than lengthy assignments that lead to burnout. (D) Some people disagree with me, but they are wrong because homework is boring and nobody likes it, following the standard grammatical conventions of modern English

105. Examine this evidence chain: Claim: 'Schools should ban sugary drinks.' Evidence 1: 'The WHO says children consume twice the recommended sugar daily.' Evidence 2: 'A Harvard study found that schools banning sugary drinks saw a 30% reduction in student sugar consumption.' Evidence 3: 'My cousin stopped drinking soda and lost weight.' Rank these three pieces of evidence from strongest to weakest for this specific claim.

(A) Evidence 1 is strongest because the WHO is the most important organization, since this follows the standard patterns of the English language (B) Evidence 3 is strongest because it shows real results in a real person, following the standard grammatical conventions of modern English (C) All three are equally strong because they all relate to sugar reduction, according to the widely accepted rules of written expression (D) Evidence 2 is strongest because it directly addresses the claim about school bans and shows measurable results. Evidence 1 is second because it establishes the problem. Evidence 3 is weakest because it is a single anecdote about one person

106. Your class is writing persuasive letters to the mayor about improving public parks. Draft a paragraph that balances ethos, pathos, and logos. Which paragraph best achieves this balance?

(A) We have used these parks for years. We know what they need. Trust us when we say they need fixing because we live here and you do not. (B) According to studies, parks that are maintained see higher usage rates. Data shows maintenance costs are offset by increased property tax revenue. Research supports park renovation, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) Please fix our parks because they are gross and nobody likes them and it makes everyone sad and angry when

things are broken. (D) As residents who use Riverside Park daily, we have witnessed its deterioration firsthand (ethos). The broken swings and overgrown paths are not just eyesores — they represent broken promises to the children who deserve safe places to play (pathos). A Parks Department study confirms that renovated parks increase property values by 9% and reduce neighborhood crime by 14% (logos).

Write the answer

107. A news website publishes an article with the headline: 'DISASTER: Mayor's Reckless Plan Will Destroy Our City.' What type of bias does this headline demonstrate?

Answer: _____

108. In the classic trolley problem, a person can divert a runaway trolley to save five people but will cause the death of one person on the other track. How does this thought experiment reveal a tension between two different ethical frameworks?

Answer: _____

109. Two students are arguing about whether homework helps students learn. Student A says: 'Homework helps because a study found students who do homework score 10% higher on tests.' Student B says: 'Homework helps because my mom says so.' Whose argument is stronger and why?

Answer: _____

110. What is an opinion?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What is a red herring fallacy? →
2. A student wrote an essay arguing that outdoor education should be required in all schools. Their teacher's feedback says: 'Your essay presents strong evidence but does not address any counterarguments.' Judge how this weakness affects the overall persuasiveness of the essay. →
3. A student claims: 'Video games improve problem-solving skills.' They support this with: 'My friend plays video games and he is good at solving puzzles.' Why is this evidence weak? →
4. A charity advertisement shows a photograph of a shivering puppy in the rain with the text: 'Right now, thousands of animals are suffering without shelter. Will you be the one to change their story?' Which rhetorical appeal is this primarily using? →
5. Your school is creating a media literacy guide for younger students. Evaluate which of the following sets of questions would best help them think critically about online content. →

(A) Pathos, because the image and language are designed to evoke feelings of sympathy and compassion

(B) Who created this content and why? What evidence supports the claims? What information might be missing? How does this content make me feel, and is it trying to manipulate my emotions? Can I verify this through independent sources?

(C) Without addressing counterarguments, the essay seems one-sided and fails to anticipate the reader's objections, making it less convincing to anyone who has concerns about outdoor education

(D) Introducing an irrelevant topic to divert attention from the original argument

(E) Because it is a single anecdote that cannot prove a general claim about all video game players

12. Debate & Argumentation

Circle the correct answer

111. Which of the following is an example of a claim?

(A) My dog's name is Buddy (B) What is your favorite pet? (C) Dogs have four legs
(D) Dogs make better pets than cats

112. You find two sources about the same topic. Source A is from a university research study published in a science journal. Source B is from an anonymous blog with no author listed and no sources cited. What does the difference in source quality tell you about the information?

(A) Source A is more likely to be accurate because it went through expert review, while Source B lacks accountability and verification (B) Source B is more honest because it does not try to sound official (C) Source A is probably biased because universities want to seem important (D) Both sources are equally reliable because they discuss the same topic

113. During a discussion about whether the school should get a new playground, a student says: 'Before we talk about playgrounds, let me tell you about the amazing field trip I went on last weekend.' How would you politely redirect this red herring?

(A) Let them finish talking about the field trip since it might somehow relate to playgrounds (B) Acknowledge their field trip briefly, then say something like: 'That sounds great, but right now we need to focus on the playground discussion. Do you have thoughts on that topic?' (C) Tell the student their field trip is boring and nobody cares, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) Start talking about your own field trip to show them how it feels, as this is what research and standard practice suggests

114. Read two conclusions for an essay arguing that schools should ban single-use plastic bottles. Conclusion A: 'In conclusion, schools should ban plastic bottles. I have explained three reasons why. Thank you for reading.' Conclusion B: 'By eliminating single-use plastic bottles, schools can prevent thousands of bottles from reaching landfills each year, model environmental responsibility for students, and save money through reusable alternatives. When a school acts on its values, students learn that individual choices shape the world around them.' Which is more effective and why?

(A) Conclusion A is better because it thanks the reader, which is polite (B) Conclusion B is more effective because it synthesizes the arguments, connects to a broader theme about values, and ends with a memorable insight. Conclusion A merely announces that it is ending (C) Conclusion A is better because it is shorter and easier to understand (D) Both are equally effective because they both restate the position

115. A company claims their new vitamin supplement 'makes kids smarter.' They provide a testimonial from a parent who says: 'My daughter started taking these vitamins and got an A on her next test.' What makes this evidence weak?

(A) It is a single anecdote that does not control for other factors — the daughter might have studied harder, had an easier test, or improved for many other reasons (B) It is weak because vitamins cannot possibly affect test scores (C) It is weak because only one test score is mentioned (D) It is weak because the parent is not a scientist

116. Write a persuasive paragraph about school funding that effectively combines logos and a rhetorical question.

(A) Wouldn't it be great if schools had more money? Everyone knows that more money means better schools. That's just common sense. (B) Schools need more money. Don't you think so? I really believe that funding is important for students. (C) School funding is complicated. There are many factors to consider. Some people support it and others do not. (D) Studies from the Education Policy Institute show that every additional \$1,000 spent per student results in a 4% increase in graduation rates. When the evidence so clearly links funding to student success, can we really afford NOT to invest in our schools?

Write the answer

117. Your teacher asks you to evaluate whether a popular YouTube video about nutrition is news or opinion. The video features a fitness influencer saying: 'Based on my experience, protein shakes are essential for growing kids. Forget what outdated doctors say — this is what actually works.' Classify this content and explain why.

Answer: _____

118. A town is deciding whether to build a new factory that would create 500 jobs but increase air pollution in a nearby neighborhood. Identify at least two different stakeholder perspectives that should be considered.

Answer: _____

119. Your teacher asks you to evaluate a classmate's argument: 'Pets should be allowed in classrooms. My dog makes me happy, so all animals make all kids happy. Therefore, classroom pets would make everyone learn better.' What is the biggest problem with this reasoning?

Answer: _____

120. Your teacher asks you to find a primary source about the American Revolution. Which of these would you choose?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A commercial says: 'Nine out of ten kids choose our sneakers. Don't be the one left out!' What fallacy does this use? →

2. Which of the following is the strongest thesis statement for a persuasive essay about school start times? →

3. You read the claim: 'Drinking milk makes bones stronger.' You find these two sources. Source A: 'A study published in the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research found that calcium-rich diets, including dairy, increase bone density in children aged 8-12 by an average of 6%.' Source B: 'My uncle is a farmer who drinks milk every day and has never broken a bone.' Select the stronger evidence and explain your choice. →

4. A student writes a persuasive essay using only pathos: vivid stories, emotional language, and dramatic imagery. There are no statistics, no expert citations, and no logical reasoning. Evaluate the effectiveness and credibility of this approach. →

5. How can social media algorithms create 'filter bubbles' that affect what information people see? →

(A) Schools should start at 9:00 AM because research shows that later start times improve student health, attendance, and academic performance

(B) Bandwagon, because it uses popularity and fear of being left out to persuade rather than giving reasons the sneakers are good

(C) The essay may be emotionally engaging but lacks credibility. Without logos (evidence and reasoning) and ethos (credible sources), critical readers will recognize the manipulation and may dismiss the argument as unsupported emotional appeal

(D) Algorithms show users content similar to what they have already engaged with, gradually surrounding them with only one perspective and limiting exposure to different viewpoints

(E) Source A is stronger because it is a published study with specific measurements from a peer-reviewed journal, while Source B is a single anecdote that does not prove causation

13. Claims, Evidence & Reasoning

Circle the correct answer

121. Design a complete claim-evidence-reasoning argument about a topic of your choice from school life. Which of these shows the best example of building an original argument?

(A) I think art is nice because I like painting and my friends do too. (B) Claim: School should offer art classes every day. Evidence: Research from a state education board shows students in daily art programs score 12% higher in creative problem-solving. Reasoning: Since creative thinking helps in all subjects, daily art builds skills that transfer across the curriculum. (C) Art is good. Everyone should do art. Art is creative and fun, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) Schools have art classes sometimes. Art teachers work at schools. Some students like art, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

122. You are helping a younger student learn to spot opinions disguised as facts. They show you this sentence from a website: 'Studies prove that cats are clearly better companions than dogs.' What would you tell them about this sentence?

(A) The phrase 'clearly better' is an opinion disguised by the word 'studies' — being a better companion is a personal judgment that studies cannot objectively prove (B) You cannot tell whether it is a fact or opinion without reading the studies, making this the most widely accepted explanation (C) It is completely an opinion because it mentions animals (D) It is completely a fact because it mentions studies

123. A classmate shares an article from a website you have never heard of. The article claims that a common food ingredient is dangerous, uses scary language, and asks you to share it with everyone you know. Apply media literacy skills to determine what you should do.

(A) Read it once and decide based on how the article makes you feel, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) Before sharing, check the website's credibility, look for the same information on established health organization websites like the FDA or WHO, check whether the article cites specific studies, and consider whether the emotional language is designed to manipulate rather than inform (C) Share it immediately because it could save lives and it is better to be safe than sorry, according to the widely accepted rules of written expression (D) Ignore it completely because unknown websites are always wrong, since this follows the standard patterns

of the English language

124. What does the word 'reasoning' mean in an argument?

(A) Making up a story to sound convincing (B) Repeating the claim over and over
(C) Explaining how the evidence supports the claim (D) Listing as many facts as possible

125. You are editing a classmate's essay that argues 'Physical education should be daily.' They provide this evidence: 'A study in the Journal of School Health found that daily PE increased students' cardiovascular fitness by 22% and their math scores by 8%.' Evaluate the quality of this evidence.

(A) This is strong evidence because it comes from a peer-reviewed journal, provides specific measurable outcomes for two different benefits, and is directly relevant to the claim about daily PE (B) This is weak evidence because it is only one study (C) This is moderate evidence because the math score connection seems unlikely (D) This is weak evidence because the numbers are too specific to be believable

126. You come across a social media post claiming: 'Scientists have confirmed that eating chocolate every day prevents heart disease.' The post has 50,000 shares. Apply fact-checking steps to evaluate this claim. What should you do first?

(A) Reject it immediately because it sounds too good to be true (B) Trust it because 50,000 people shared it, so it must be accurate (C) Share it with your family because chocolate is everyone's favorite food (D) Identify the original source — check whether the post links to an actual scientific study, and if so, what the study actually concluded versus what the post claims

Write the answer

127. An editorial states: 'Anyone who supports year-round schooling obviously cares more about test scores than children's happiness.' Analyze the reasoning flaws in this statement.

Answer: _____

128. A historian studying the Oregon Trail finds two sources: (1) A diary kept by a pioneer woman in 1848 describing daily hardships. (2) A history textbook chapter about the Oregon Trail published in 2022. Analyze the strengths and limitations of each source.

Answer: _____

129. In a well-structured argumentative essay, what does the body section contain?

Answer: _____

130. A wartime government creates a poster showing smiling children with the text: 'Your brave soldiers protect their future. Support the war effort!' Meanwhile, the opposing government creates a poster of the same war showing wounded civilians with the text: 'End the violence! Demand peace now!' Evaluate how the same conflict is portrayed through opposing propaganda.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What does it mean to consider multiple perspectives on an issue? →
2. What is a primary source? →
3. Your classmate's essay argues that students should learn a second language starting in kindergarten. A counterargument is: 'Young children might get confused by learning two languages at once.' Write an effective rebuttal. →
4. What is an ad hominem fallacy? →
5. Two students are researching the same topic. Student A only uses sources they find through their social media feed. Student B uses a school database, a library reference, and a verified news source. Evaluate whose research is likely more reliable and why.
→

(A) Research from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages shows that young children's brains are actually better at absorbing multiple languages than older students, and bilingual children show no signs of language confusion by age five

(B) Examining an issue from the viewpoints of different people, groups, or stakeholders who may be affected in different ways

(C) Student B's research is more reliable because their sources are diverse, vetted, and independent. Student A's social media feed is algorithmically filtered, creating a filter bubble that may only present one perspective and include unverified information

(D) An original document or firsthand account created during the time of an event

(E) Attacking the person making an argument instead of addressing the argument itself

14. Claims, Evidence & Reasoning

Circle the correct answer

131. Why is it important to include reasoning in an argument, not just a claim and evidence?

(A) Because you always need exactly three parts in every sentence (B) Because reasoning makes the argument sound more complicated (C) Because reasoning

replaces the need for any evidence (D) Because reasoning explains the connection between the evidence and the claim

132. A student reads: 'Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809. He was the greatest president in American history.' Which part is a fact and which is an opinion?

(A) Both statements are facts because they are about a real person (B) The birth date is an opinion because it happened so long ago (C) Both statements are opinions because they are about history (D) The birth date is a fact; calling him the greatest president is an opinion

133. You are helping a friend write a thesis statement for an essay about whether zoos are beneficial. They wrote: 'Zoos are interesting places.' How would you help them strengthen this into a proper thesis?

(A) Change it to a question: 'Are zoos interesting places?', as this directly follows from the underlying principles (B) Add the word 'very' to make it 'Zoos are very interesting places', and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) Rewrite it to take a clear position with reasons, such as: 'Zoos play a vital role in wildlife conservation by protecting endangered species, funding scientific research, and educating the public about biodiversity' (D) Keep it the same because it states a clear opinion about zoos

134. What does 'ethos' mean in rhetoric?

(A) An appeal to logic and reasoning (B) An appeal to the majority opinion (C) An appeal to the audience's emotions (D) An appeal to the speaker's credibility, character, or trustworthiness

135. A student is evaluating two websites about space exploration. Website A ends in .edu and is written by a university astrophysics professor. Website B ends in .com and is written by someone who sells telescope equipment. Both claim that a new planet has been discovered. Which approach to evaluating these sources is best?

(A) Trust Website B because .com websites are more up-to-date than .edu websites (B) Consider the author's expertise and potential bias — the professor has scientific credentials, while the telescope seller may exaggerate discoveries to boost sales (C) Trust whichever website has more colorful images of the planet (D) Ignore both and wait for your teacher to tell you the answer

136. Read two versions of the same argument. Version A: 'You wouldn't understand the value of exercise because you never play sports.' Version B: 'Regular exercise improves cardiovascular health, according to the American Heart Association.' Which version is more logically sound, and what makes the other version fallacious?

(A) Version B is weaker because it relies on an authority instead of personal experience (B) Version A is better because it speaks directly to the person's experience (C) Version B is logically sound because it cites expert evidence. Version A commits an ad hominem fallacy by dismissing someone based on their personal

habits instead of addressing the topic (D) Both versions are equally valid because they both relate to exercise

Write the answer

137. A classmate argues: 'We should have a longer lunch period because I talked to three students and they all said they don't have enough time to eat.' Improve this evidence by suggesting a stronger alternative.

Answer: _____

138. What is a rhetorical question?

Answer: _____

139. How can you tell the difference between a strong claim and a weak claim?

Answer: _____

140. What is a thesis statement?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Design the complete outline for a persuasive essay arguing that elementary schools should teach basic cooking skills. Include a thesis, three body paragraph topics, one counterargument with rebuttal, and a conclusion approach. Which outline best demonstrates strong argumentative structure? →

2. A friend sends you a viral social media post that says: 'BREAKING: Study proves that homework is harmful to all children! Share to spread awareness!' The post has no link to the study, no author name, and no date. Analyze why each of these missing elements is a red flag. →

3. A community is debating whether to use limited park funding to build a new playground or to restore a wetland habitat. A utilitarian argues for the playground because more people will use it. What important consideration does this purely utilitarian analysis overlook? →

4. A school is debating whether to ban smartphones during the school day. Using a utilitarian framework, how would you begin to evaluate this policy? →

5. A student's essay about the benefits of school gardens includes these three pieces of evidence: (1) 'Gardens are beautiful.' (2) 'A UC Davis study found that students who participated in school garden programs ate 15% more vegetables.' (3) 'School gardens are popular in many states.' Analyze the relevance and quality of each piece of evidence for the claim that school gardens benefit student health. →

(A) Thesis: Elementary schools should include cooking classes because they teach nutrition, build math skills through measurement, and promote independence. Body 1: Cooking teaches students about healthy food choices (cite child nutrition research). Body 2: Measuring ingredients reinforces fractions and math concepts (cite educational studies). Body 3: Preparing meals builds confidence and life skills. Counterargument/Rebuttal: Critics say cooking is dangerous for young children; however, age-appropriate recipes and supervised kitchens have been used safely in hundreds of schools. Conclusion: Connect cooking education to preparing well-rounded citizens who can nourish themselves and their communities.

(B) Evidence 2 is the only strong, relevant piece — it provides specific data directly linking gardens to health behavior. Evidence 1 is subjective and not about health. Evidence 3 is a bandwagon appeal that says nothing about health benefits

(C) It overlooks the long-term environmental benefits of the wetland, such as flood prevention and biodiversity, which may affect the community's well-being for generations even if fewer people directly use the space

(D) By identifying all stakeholders affected and weighing the total benefits of the ban (fewer distractions, better focus) against the total costs (reduced communication, safety concerns)

(E) No link to the study means the claim is unverifiable. No author means no accountability for accuracy. No date means the information could be outdated. Together, these make the post unreliable and potentially misinformation

15. Claims, Evidence & Reasoning

Circle the correct answer

141. Why is statistical evidence generally considered stronger than anecdotal evidence?

(A) Because numbers are always more truthful than words (B) Because only scientists can produce statistical evidence (C) Because statistics can never be manipulated or misrepresented (D) Because statistics reveal patterns across many cases, reducing the chance that results are due to individual circumstances

142. A student's speech includes: 'According to a National Science Foundation study, schools that increased science lab time by one hour per week saw a 17% improvement in students' scientific reasoning skills. Furthermore, these students performed 12% better on standardized tests.' Which rhetorical appeal is this primarily using?

(A) Pathos, because it appeals to people's desire for better test scores (B) Logos, because it uses specific statistics from a credible source and logical cause-and-effect reasoning (C) Repetition, because it presents two different statistics (D) Ethos, because the National Science Foundation is a credible organization

143. Why is it important to distinguish between news reporting and opinion content when consuming media?

(A) Because opinion pieces are written by less qualified people than news reporters
(B) Because news reporting aims to present verified facts objectively, while opinion content reflects one person's interpretation. Confusing the two can lead to treating personal viewpoints as established facts
(C) Because opinion content is always wrong and news reporting is always right
(D) Because you should only read news articles and never read opinion pieces

144. Rewrite the following oversimplified claim as a more nuanced argument: 'Social media is bad for teenagers.'

(A) Social media does not affect teenagers at all because they are too young to be influenced
(B) Social media is terrible for everyone of all ages and should be banned entirely, which is why this approach is recommended by experts
(C) While social media poses risks to teenagers, such as cyberbullying and reduced sleep, it also offers benefits like social connection and community building, so its impact depends on how it is used and moderated
(D) Social media is actually good for teenagers because it helps them communicate

145. What is a straw man fallacy?

(A) Building your argument step by step like building something
(B) Misrepresenting someone's argument to make it easier to attack
(C) Using a made-up character to explain your point
(D) Making an argument that is so weak it falls apart immediately

146. Two students debate whether schools should replace textbooks with tablets. Student A cites: 'A 2023 meta-analysis of 47 studies found no significant difference in reading comprehension between digital and print materials.' Student B cites: 'My older brother's school got tablets and he said it was awesome.' Judge which student's evidence is more credible for making a policy recommendation.

(A) Student A's evidence is less useful because it shows no difference, which means neither option is better
(B) Both are equally credible because they provide different types of useful information
(C) Student B's evidence is more credible because it comes from real experience
(D) Student A's evidence is far more credible because a meta-analysis synthesizes findings from 47 studies, providing a comprehensive evidence base. Student B's evidence is a single anecdote about one student's subjective experience

Write the answer

147. How does a rhetorical question differ from a regular question in an argument?

Answer: _____

148. You notice a classmate's persuasive essay contains this sentence: 'Everyone knows that video games are bad for kids, so we should ban them.' Rewrite this argument without the fallacy.

Answer: _____

149. How can strong evidence become weak if it is not relevant?

Answer: _____

150. A student discovers that their best friend cheated on an important exam. The student values both honesty and loyalty. Apply ethical reasoning to explain the core conflict in this moral dilemma.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A major fact-checking organization rates a political claim as 'Mostly False.' The politician responds: 'Fact-checkers are biased against me. They always rate my statements unfairly!' Analyze whether this response effectively addresses the fact-check. →

2. Evaluate the overall structure of this essay plan: Introduction with thesis → Body 1 with reason and evidence → Body 2 with reason and evidence → Counterargument and rebuttal → Body 3 with reason and evidence → Conclusion. Is this a well-organized structure? →

3. You are coaching a younger student on rhetorical strategies. They ask: 'Why can't I just use facts for everything? Why do I need ethos and pathos?' Evaluate this question and formulate a thoughtful response. →

4. How does the body of an argument relate to the thesis statement? →

5. Why is it important to address counterarguments in a persuasive essay? →

(A) The response does not address the substance of the fact-check at all — it attacks the fact-checkers' motives instead of providing evidence that the original claim is true. This is an ad hominem deflection from the factual question

(B) This structure is generally effective, though placing the counterargument between body paragraphs 2 and 3 could disrupt flow. A common alternative is to address the counterargument after all supporting points or within the most relevant body paragraph

(C) Each body paragraph provides a specific reason with evidence that directly supports the thesis

(D) Because it shows the writer has considered other viewpoints and makes the argument more convincing

(E) Facts alone rarely change minds because humans are not purely rational. Ethos builds the trust needed for the audience to accept the facts, and pathos creates the emotional motivation to act on them. The most effective persuasion combines all

three because different audience members respond to different appeals

16. Claims, Evidence & Reasoning

Circle the correct answer

151. Create a short persuasive paragraph about a school issue that avoids all logical fallacies. Which of the following best demonstrates fallacy-free argumentation?

(A) Our school should start a tutoring program because research from the National Education Association shows peer tutoring improves test scores by an average of 11%. While this would require volunteer time, schools with similar programs report that student volunteers gained leadership skills. The benefits to both tutors and students make this worth trying. (B) Everyone agrees we need tutoring, and anyone who disagrees just doesn't care about struggling students. If we don't start tutoring, our school will fail completely. (C) Either we start a tutoring program or students will keep failing. It's that simple. There's no other solution to help struggling students. (D) My older sister had a tutor and she got into a great college, so tutoring obviously works for everyone. All the best schools have tutoring programs.

152. A student wants to persuade the principal to allow a mural on the school's exterior wall. They plan to use repetition in their speech. Which approach demonstrates effective use of repetition?

(A) A mural would inspire creativity in every student who walks through our doors. A mural would transform a blank wall into a symbol of our community. A mural would show the world what our school stands for. (B) We need a mural because murals are nice. Murals look good. Murals are colorful. Murals make walls better. (C) I really, really, really, really want a mural on our school wall because it would be really, really great. (D) A mural is a painting on a wall. Many schools have murals. Murals have been around for centuries. Our school should have one too.

153. What is a nuanced argument?

(A) An argument that avoids taking any position on a controversial topic (B) An argument that takes a strong position and refuses to compromise (C) An argument that uses long and complicated vocabulary to sound impressive (D) An argument that acknowledges complexity, considers exceptions and limitations, and avoids oversimplifying an issue into simple right-or-wrong terms

154. Judge which of these arguments about field trips is most convincing and explain why. A: 'Field trips are fun.' B: 'Field trips help students learn. A university study found that students who went on museum trips remembered 30% more science facts a month later.' C: 'Everyone loves field trips, so we should have more of them.'

(A) Argument A is most convincing because everyone agrees field trips are fun (B)

Argument B is most convincing because it has a clear claim, specific research evidence, and measurable results (C) Argument C is most convincing because it speaks for everyone (D) All three are equally convincing because they all support field trips

155. Why might a website that sells sports equipment NOT be the best source for information about which sport is healthiest?

(A) Because sports equipment companies do not know anything about sports (B) Because only books are reliable sources of information (C) Because websites cannot contain facts (D) Because the website has a financial reason to promote certain sports over others

156. You want to identify propaganda techniques in a political advertisement. The ad shows a candidate shaking hands with soldiers, hugging children, and visiting a factory, while a narrator says: 'A real leader who stands with our troops, our families, and our workers.' Identify the propaganda techniques being used.

(A) The ad uses only testimonial technique because the narrator speaks positively about the candidate (B) Transfer (associating the candidate with respected groups), glittering generalities ('real leader,' 'stands with'), and card stacking (showing only positive images while omitting any negative aspects of the candidate's record) (C) The ad uses only bandwagon technique because it shows the candidate with many people (D) The ad is not propaganda because it shows real events

Write the answer

157. During a debate about whether homework should be reduced, a student says: 'Well, at least our school has air conditioning, unlike some schools.' What fallacy is this?

Answer: _____

158. During a class discussion about recycling, one student says: 'We should start a recycling program at our school.' Another student responds: 'But what about the pollution from factories in China? That's the real problem.' Break down why this response is problematic.

Answer: _____

159. Your class is debating whether the school day should start later. Identify a strong piece of evidence you could use to support the claim that school should start at 9:00 AM instead of 8:00 AM.

Answer: _____

160. An advertisement claims: 'Dr. Johnson, a dentist with 20 years of experience, recommends our toothpaste for the whitest smile.' Is Dr. Johnson's testimony strong evidence for this specific claim?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What is the bandwagon fallacy? →

2. You read a news article that says: 'The city council voted 7-2 to approve a new bike lane on Main Street. This is a wonderful decision that will make our city much better.' Identify the fact and the opinion in this passage. →

3. Which of these statements is a fact? →

4. A website about nutrition includes this sentence: 'Carrots contain beta-carotene, which the body converts to vitamin A. Carrots are undoubtedly the most delicious vegetable.' Analyze this passage. Why should a careful reader be cautious? →

5. A public health campaign says: 'As a doctor with 30 years of experience treating respiratory diseases, I urge you to support clean air regulations.' Which rhetorical appeal is this primarily using? →

(A) Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius at sea level

(B) Ethos, because the speaker establishes their medical expertise and experience to build credibility

(C) The vote count (7-2) is a fact; calling it 'wonderful' and saying it will make the city 'much better' is an opinion

(D) Because the passage mixes a verifiable fact with an opinion, which could make the opinion seem like a fact too

(E) Arguing that something must be true or good because many people believe it or do it

Riddle & Joke Break

Guess the answer, then check the key!

161. Why was the argument always tired?

162. What did the claim say to the evidence?

163. Why did the logical fallacy go to school?

164. What do you call a debate between two walls?

165. Why was the straw man such a bad debater?

166. What did the rebuttal say to the claim?

Answer Key

1. A — A statement that expresses a position or belief
2. B — Dogs make better pets than cats
3. C — To support and prove a claim
4. A — Explaining how the evidence supports the claim
5. A — Studies show that physical activity helps kids focus better in class
6. C — Because reasoning explains the connection between the evidence and the claim
7. Reasoning that explains how the evidence connects to the claim
8. A study found that students who read daily scored 15% higher on writing tests
9. A strong claim can be supported with evidence and is debatable
10. Data showing that helmets reduce head injuries by 70%
Matching (Claims, Evidence & Reasoning): 1→D, 2→C, 3→A, 4→B, 5→E
11. A — A statement that can be proven true or false with evidence
12. C — A statement that expresses a personal belief, feeling, or judgment
13. A — An original document or firsthand account created during the time of an event
14. D — Should
15. D — Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius at sea level
16. C — Because the website has a financial reason to promote certain sports over others
17. The birth date is a fact; calling him the greatest president is an opinion
18. The information comes from a trustworthy, knowledgeable source and can be verified
19. A primary source was created during the event; a secondary source was created later by someone who studied the event
20. Because a single source might contain errors or bias, and multiple sources help confirm accuracy

Matching (Fact vs. Opinion & Source Evaluation): 1→C, 2→B, 3→A, 4→E, 5→D

21. C — Attacking the person making an argument instead of addressing the argument itself
22. A — Misrepresenting someone's argument to make it easier to attack
23. C — Arguing that something must be true or good because many people believe it or do it
24. C — Presenting only two options when there are actually more possibilities
25. D — Ad hominem, because it attacks Maya's grades instead of evaluating her science fair idea
26. B — Straw man, because Jordan is exaggerating Sam's argument to make it easier to reject
27. Bandwagon, because it uses popularity and fear of being left out to persuade rather than giving reasons the sneakers are good
28. Introducing an irrelevant topic to divert attention from the original argument
29. Red herring, because air conditioning is completely unrelated to the homework debate
30. Because success in life is not determined only by getting straight A's — there are many paths to success

Matching (Logical Fallacies): 1→C, 2→B, 3→E, 4→D, 5→A

31. B — A sentence that clearly states the main argument or position of an essay or speech
32. A — An argument that opposes or challenges the main claim
33. D — A response that explains why a counterargument is wrong or less convincing than the original claim
34. C — To restate the thesis, summarize key evidence, and leave the reader with a final thought
35. A — Supporting paragraphs that each present a reason with evidence and reasoning to support the thesis
36. A — Because it shows the writer has considered other viewpoints and makes the argument more convincing
37. Schools should start at 9:00 AM because research shows that later start times improve student health, attendance, and academic performance

- 38. A rebuttal provides evidence and reasoning to explain why the opposing point is weaker, while disagreeing just says 'I don't agree' without support
- 39. It restates the thesis in a new way, reinforces the key evidence, and ends with a thought-provoking final statement
- 40. Each body paragraph provides a specific reason with evidence that directly supports the thesis

Matching (Argument Structure & Counterarguments): 1→A, 2→E, 3→D, 4→B, 5→C

- 41. C — Strong evidence is specific, verifiable, and comes from reliable sources; weak evidence is vague, unverifiable, or based on personal opinion
- 42. B — Evidence based on personal stories or individual experiences rather than systematic research
- 43. B — Evidence based on numerical data collected from research, surveys, or experiments involving many cases
- 44. C — Statements or opinions from a person who has specialized knowledge or professional experience in a specific field
- 45. A — Because it is a single anecdote that cannot prove a general claim about all video game players
- 46. D — Because statistics reveal patterns across many cases, reducing the chance that results are due to individual circumstances
- 47. Whether the expert's qualifications are relevant to the specific topic being discussed
- 48. The evidence directly relates to and supports the specific claim being made
- 49. Even well-researched evidence fails to support an argument if it does not directly relate to the specific claim being made
- 50. It is a single anecdote that does not control for other factors — the daughter might have studied harder, had an easier test, or improved for many other reasons

Matching (Evidence Quality & Evaluation): 1→D, 2→E, 3→B, 4→C, 5→A

- 51. B — An appeal to the speaker's credibility, character, or trustworthiness
- 52. B — An appeal to the audience's emotions such as sympathy, fear, or hope
- 53. C — An appeal to logic, reasoning, and evidence
- 54. C — A question asked for effect that is not meant to be answered, because the answer is obvious or implied

55. A — Ethos, because the speaker establishes their medical expertise and experience to build credibility
56. D — Pathos, because the image and language are designed to evoke feelings of sympathy and compassion
57. Logos, because it uses specific statistics from a credible source and logical cause-and-effect reasoning
58. To emphasize key ideas, make the message memorable, and create a sense of rhythm and urgency
59. A rhetorical question is used to make a point or provoke thought, while a regular question genuinely seeks information or an answer
60. Both repetition and pathos — the repeated phrase creates rhythm and emotional power, while the content appeals to the audience's hopes and desire for justice
Matching (Persuasion & Rhetorical Strategies): 1→A, 2→C, 3→E, 4→D, 5→B
61. C — A tendency in reporting to favor one perspective, group, or viewpoint over others in a way that distorts balanced coverage
62. A — Information that is deliberately spread to promote a particular political cause, viewpoint, or agenda, often using misleading or emotional tactics
63. C — A news article reports facts and events objectively, while an opinion piece expresses the author's personal viewpoint on an issue
64. A — The process of verifying the accuracy of claims, statements, or information using reliable, independent sources
65. A — Bias through word choice and sensationalism — words like 'DISASTER,' 'reckless,' and 'destroy' are emotionally charged and present the plan negatively before the reader learns any facts
66. A — A political candidate standing in front of the American flag and the Statue of Liberty during their speech to associate themselves with patriotism
67. Because news reporting aims to present verified facts objectively, while opinion content reflects one person's interpretation. Confusing the two can lead to treating personal viewpoints as established facts
68. Algorithms show users content similar to what they have already engaged with, gradually surrounding them with only one perspective and limiting exposure to different viewpoints
69. Check the source, find the original claim, look for verification from multiple independent and reputable sources, and check the date and context of the

information

70. Using negative labels or derogatory terms to discredit a person, group, or idea without providing evidence or logical reasoning
Matching (Media Literacy & Bias Detection): 1→D, 2→B, 3→A, 4→E, 5→C
71. D — A structured set of principles or values used to guide decision-making about what is right, wrong, fair, or just
72. B — A situation in which a person must choose between two or more options that each involve a conflict between important moral values
73. D — Examining an issue from the viewpoints of different people, groups, or stakeholders who may be affected in different ways
74. B — An argument that acknowledges complexity, considers exceptions and limitations, and avoids oversimplifying an issue into simple right-or-wrong terms
75. B — By choosing the action that produces the greatest overall good or happiness for the greatest number of people affected
76. D — Because they involve genuine conflicts between important values, so any choice requires sacrificing something morally significant
77. It shows that the arguer understands the complexity of the issue and has thought carefully about why others might reasonably disagree
78. A nuanced argument recognizes a range of possible positions and complexity, while a false dilemma incorrectly presents only two extreme options
79. It allows people to exchange ideas respectfully, understand different viewpoints, and potentially find common ground without hostility or personal attacks
80. That every individual has fundamental rights that must be respected and protected, regardless of the consequences for the majority
Matching (Ethical Reasoning & Complex Arguments): 1→B, 2→C, 3→D, 4→E, 5→A
81. A — Evidence A is stronger because it provides specific, measurable facts about how trees help cities
82. C — The news article's claim is more trustworthy because it is based on independent research, while the advertisement has a profit motive to make the cereal sound beneficial
83. A — Argument 3 is most logically sound because it uses specific, verifiable evidence without committing any fallacy. Argument 1 uses bandwagon logic and Argument 2 uses a false dilemma

84. B — An argument that opposes or challenges the main claim
85. B — The evidence is very strong because it includes three different credible sources, specific measurable outcomes, and addresses multiple dimensions of the claim. Having diverse evidence from different organizations strengthens the argument significantly
86. A — Approach A creates urgency but uses fear-based emotional manipulation without evidence. Approach B provides strong data but may not engage the audience emotionally. The strongest argument would combine both — data supported by genuine emotional resonance
87. Coverage A has a pro-consumer, pro-regulation bias — framing the law as empowerment and health improvement. Coverage B has a pro-business, anti-regulation bias — framing the same law as government overreach and a burden. Both selectively emphasize different stakeholders and effects
88. While some zoos have historically kept animals in inadequate conditions, many modern accredited zoos contribute significantly to conservation and education; the ethics of zoos depend on specific factors like habitat quality, breeding programs, and educational mission
89. Claim B is better because it is specific enough to support with evidence and is clearly debatable
90. A statement that can be proven true or false with evidence
Matching (Evidence Evaluation Methods): $1 \rightarrow A$, $2 \rightarrow C$, $3 \rightarrow E$, $4 \rightarrow D$, $5 \rightarrow B$
91. B — A health study showing that kids who eat more fruits and vegetables perform better in school
92. B — Check who created the website, whether the authors are experts, and whether other reliable sources agree with the information
93. B — Point out that there are other options between five days and zero days, such as four-day school weeks, which some districts already use successfully
94. A — The rebuttal is weak because it does not address the concern about academic time — saying art is 'fun' does not counter the argument that time could be better spent on core academics
95. C — Whether the expert's qualifications are relevant to the specific topic being discussed
96. A — Ethos (celebrity athlete endorsement implying expertise), pathos (desire to be like an Olympic champion), and a rhetorical question (implying you should trust it too)

97. Article A has a positive bias ('celebrates,' implies universal support) and Article B has a negative bias ('forced,' 'unnecessary,' implies the park is unwanted). A neutral headline: 'City Council Approves Funding for New Park; Residents Divided'
98. That every individual has fundamental rights that must be respected and protected, regardless of the consequences for the majority
99. Since most families want outdoor spaces, a new park would meet the needs of the community
100. The first statement uses verifiable data from a specific source, while the second expresses a personal judgment without evidence
Matching (Logical Fallacies): $1 \rightarrow B$, $2 \rightarrow D$, $3 \rightarrow C$, $4 \rightarrow A$, $5 \rightarrow E$
101. A — Weekend breaks let students' brains rest, which helps them remember what they learned during the week
102. A — Search medical databases or the CDC website for studies on lemon water and colds, check if doctors or health organizations support the claim, and look for the original source of the claim
103. A — Letter B uses more honest reasoning because it presents the proposal accurately and acknowledges concerns. Letter A exaggerates two weeks into 'no summer at all,' which is a straw man
104. C — Some may argue that limiting homework reduces practice time that students need to master skills. However, a Stanford University study found that students who did more than 30 minutes of homework per night showed increased stress without significant academic gains. Quality practice in shorter sessions is more effective than lengthy assignments that lead to burnout.
105. D — Evidence 2 is strongest because it directly addresses the claim about school bans and shows measurable results. Evidence 1 is second because it establishes the problem. Evidence 3 is weakest because it is a single anecdote about one person
106. D — As residents who use Riverside Park daily, we have witnessed its deterioration firsthand (ethos). The broken swings and overgrown paths are not just eyesores — they represent broken promises to the children who deserve safe places to play (pathos). A Parks Department study confirms that renovated parks increase property values by 9% and reduce neighborhood crime by 14% (logos).
107. Bias through word choice and sensationalism — words like 'DISASTER,' 'reckless,' and 'destroy' are emotionally charged and present the plan negatively before the reader learns any facts

108. It reveals a tension between utilitarianism (saving the most lives by diverting) and rights-based ethics (no one has the right to deliberately cause another person's death, even to save others)
109. Student A's argument is stronger because it uses research-based evidence with specific data
110. A statement that expresses a personal belief, feeling, or judgment
Matching (Persuasive Techniques): 1→D, 2→C, 3→E, 4→A, 5→B
111. D — Dogs make better pets than cats
112. A — Source A is more likely to be accurate because it went through expert review, while Source B lacks accountability and verification
113. B — Acknowledge their field trip briefly, then say something like: 'That sounds great, but right now we need to focus on the playground discussion. Do you have thoughts on that topic?'
114. B — Conclusion B is more effective because it synthesizes the arguments, connects to a broader theme about values, and ends with a memorable insight. Conclusion A merely announces that it is ending
115. A — It is a single anecdote that does not control for other factors — the daughter might have studied harder, had an easier test, or improved for many other reasons
116. D — Studies from the Education Policy Institute show that every additional \$1,000 spent per student results in a 4% increase in graduation rates. When the evidence so clearly links funding to student success, can we really afford NOT to invest in our schools?
117. This is opinion content disguised as advice. The influencer uses personal experience rather than research, dismisses medical professionals without evidence, and presents their viewpoint as established fact
118. Workers who need employment and economic opportunity; residents of the nearby neighborhood who would breathe polluted air and face potential health risks
119. It assumes that what is true for one person and one pet is true for everyone and all animals
120. A letter written by a soldier who fought in the Battle of Yorktown in 1781
Matching (Debate & Argumentation): 1→B, 2→A, 3→E, 4→C, 5→D
121. B — Claim: School should offer art classes every day. Evidence: Research from a

state education board shows students in daily art programs score 12% higher in creative problem-solving. Reasoning: Since creative thinking helps in all subjects, daily art builds skills that transfer across the curriculum.

122. A — The phrase 'clearly better' is an opinion disguised by the word 'studies' — being a better companion is a personal judgment that studies cannot objectively prove
123. B — Before sharing, check the website's credibility, look for the same information on established health organization websites like the FDA or WHO, check whether the article cites specific studies, and consider whether the emotional language is designed to manipulate rather than inform
124. C — Explaining how the evidence supports the claim
125. A — This is strong evidence because it comes from a peer-reviewed journal, provides specific measurable outcomes for two different benefits, and is directly relevant to the claim about daily PE
126. D — Identify the original source — check whether the post links to an actual scientific study, and if so, what the study actually concluded versus what the post claims
127. It commits the false dilemma fallacy by implying test scores and happiness are mutually exclusive, and it uses an ad hominem attack by questioning the motives of supporters rather than engaging with their arguments
128. The diary gives a vivid firsthand perspective but may be one-sided; the textbook provides broader context but lacks personal detail
129. Supporting paragraphs that each present a reason with evidence and reasoning to support the thesis
130. Both posters use pathos and selective imagery to support opposite agendas. The first frames war positively through children's safety to encourage support. The second frames it negatively through civilian suffering to encourage opposition. Neither presents the full reality
Matching (Claims, Evidence & Reasoning): 1→B, 2→D, 3→A, 4→E, 5→C
131. D — Because reasoning explains the connection between the evidence and the claim
132. D — The birth date is a fact; calling him the greatest president is an opinion
133. C — Rewrite it to take a clear position with reasons, such as: 'Zoos play a vital role in wildlife conservation by protecting endangered species, funding scientific research, and educating the public about biodiversity'

134. D — An appeal to the speaker's credibility, character, or trustworthiness
135. B — Consider the author's expertise and potential bias — the professor has scientific credentials, while the telescope seller may exaggerate discoveries to boost sales
136. C — Version B is logically sound because it cites expert evidence. Version A commits an ad hominem fallacy by dismissing someone based on their personal habits instead of addressing the topic
137. Conduct a school-wide survey asking all students about their lunch experience, then report the percentage who feel rushed, along with data on how much food is being thrown away due to time constraints
138. A question asked for effect that is not meant to be answered, because the answer is obvious or implied
139. A strong claim can be supported with evidence and is debatable
140. A sentence that clearly states the main argument or position of an essay or speech
Matching (Claims, Evidence & Reasoning): 1→A, 2→E, 3→C, 4→D, 5→B
141. D — Because statistics reveal patterns across many cases, reducing the chance that results are due to individual circumstances
142. B — Logos, because it uses specific statistics from a credible source and logical cause-and-effect reasoning
143. B — Because news reporting aims to present verified facts objectively, while opinion content reflects one person's interpretation. Confusing the two can lead to treating personal viewpoints as established facts
144. C — While social media poses risks to teenagers, such as cyberbullying and reduced sleep, it also offers benefits like social connection and community building, so its impact depends on how it is used and moderated
145. B — Misrepresenting someone's argument to make it easier to attack
146. D — Student A's evidence is far more credible because a meta-analysis synthesizes findings from 47 studies, providing a comprehensive evidence base. Student B's evidence is a single anecdote about one student's subjective experience
147. A rhetorical question is used to make a point or provoke thought, while a regular question genuinely seeks information or an answer
148. Research from the American Academy of Pediatrics shows that excessive screen

time can affect children's sleep patterns, so parents should set reasonable time limits for video games

149. Even well-researched evidence fails to support an argument if it does not directly relate to the specific claim being made
150. The conflict is between the value of honesty and fairness (reporting the cheating) and the value of loyalty and friendship (protecting their friend from consequences)
Matching (Claims, Evidence & Reasoning): $1 \rightarrow A$, $2 \rightarrow B$, $3 \rightarrow E$, $4 \rightarrow C$, $5 \rightarrow D$
151. A — Our school should start a tutoring program because research from the National Education Association shows peer tutoring improves test scores by an average of 11%. While this would require volunteer time, schools with similar programs report that student volunteers gained leadership skills. The benefits to both tutors and students make this worth trying.
152. A — A mural would inspire creativity in every student who walks through our doors. A mural would transform a blank wall into a symbol of our community. A mural would show the world what our school stands for.
153. D — An argument that acknowledges complexity, considers exceptions and limitations, and avoids oversimplifying an issue into simple right-or-wrong terms
154. B — Argument B is most convincing because it has a clear claim, specific research evidence, and measurable results
155. D — Because the website has a financial reason to promote certain sports over others
156. B — Transfer (associating the candidate with respected groups), glittering generalities ('real leader,' 'stands with'), and card stacking (showing only positive images while omitting any negative aspects of the candidate's record)
157. Red herring, because air conditioning is completely unrelated to the homework debate
158. This is a red herring because factory pollution in China is a separate issue that distracts from the local question of whether the school should start a recycling program
159. Sleep research shows that children ages 9-12 need 9-12 hours of sleep and often do not get enough with early start times
160. It is somewhat relevant because Dr. Johnson is a dental expert, but it may be biased since the company likely paid for the endorsement, and 'whitest smile' is a subjective, unmeasured claim

Matching (Claims, Evidence & Reasoning): 1→E, 2→C, 3→A, 4→D, 5→B

- 161. It had no support to stand on!
- 162. "You back me up -- I appreciate your support!"
- 163. To learn how to make a valid point!
- 164. A heated argument with zero room for compromise!
- 165. It always fell apart under pressure!
- 166. "I object to everything you stand for!"

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