

Name: _____

Date: Day 6

Argument Writing: Counter-Arguments

A counter-argument is an argument that someone would make if they disagreed with your claim. While writing, it may seem strange to include an argument that goes against your claim. However, including a counter-argument helps strengthen your claim because it gives you the chance to respond to a reader's possible objections before they have finished reading. It also shows that you are a reasonable person because you have considered both sides of the argument.

Here are some sentence starters that you can use to write a counter-argument:

- Some people say...
- It may be true that...
- It's easy to think...
- You might argue that...

Write a counter-argument for each of the following claims.

1. Halloween is the best holiday.

A dentist might say that Halloween candy is bad for kids' teeth.

2. Our class should go on a field trip to the science museum this year.

3. School should end an hour earlier each day.

4. Recess is the most important part of the school day.

5. Participating in sports helps kids learn life skills like cooperation.

6. Football is the best sport to watch on TV.

7. Dogs make great pets.

Name: _____

Date: Day 6 cont.

Argument Writing: Counter-Arguments

After you introduce the counter-argument, you can respond to it by writing a **rebuttal**. A rebuttal is your chance to show the reader why you are right and the counter-argument is wrong. A strong rebuttal provides evidence that undermines or weakens the counter-argument.

Here are some sentence starters that you can use to write a strong rebuttal:

- But I argue that...
- However, the truth is...
- But when you look at the facts...
- However, the evidence shows...

Write a rebuttal for each of the following counter-arguments.

1. A dentist might say that Halloween candy is bad for kids' teeth.

But research shows that, with regular brushing and flossing, occasional treats will not negatively
affect a person's dental health.

2. Some people think that summer is the best season because the weather is warm.

3. You could argue that chocolate chip cookies are tastier than my grandmother's pie.

4. It's easy to think that taller kids are better at basketball.

5. It may be true that you got a higher score on your math test.

DIRECTIONS: Read the words in each box.

Write a sentence using all the words.

Simple or Compound

NAME: _____

1.	a. little cat	dog	a. _____ _____ _____
	b. big jump	fish	b. _____ _____ _____
2.	a. car like	ride	a. _____ _____ _____
	b. food store	buy	b. _____ _____ _____
3.	a. walk right	leg	a. _____ _____ _____
	b. seven week	day	b. _____ _____ _____
4.	a. last month	December	a. _____ _____ _____
	b. check belong	address	b. _____ _____ _____

Name _____

Date _____

Day 7

2-20A. IDENTIFYING THE MAIN IDEA, CONTINUED

2. In 1780, Benedict Arnold asked General George Washington to give him command of West Point. As a soldier, Arnold realized the strategic importance of West Point. At this time, General Arnold was a respected soldier in the patriot army. No one knew that his bride, Peggy Shippen, had been successful in convincing Arnold that the British cause was right and just. In September, 1780, Arnold was discovered as a traitor who had given a British spy plans on how to attack West Point and how Arnold would surrender it. Although the spy, Major John Andre, was hanged, Benedict Arnold escaped to Britain. His treason made him lose the respect of both Americans and British. He died in Britain a sad and lonely man 20 years later.

Who or what is the passage about?

What happened?

When?

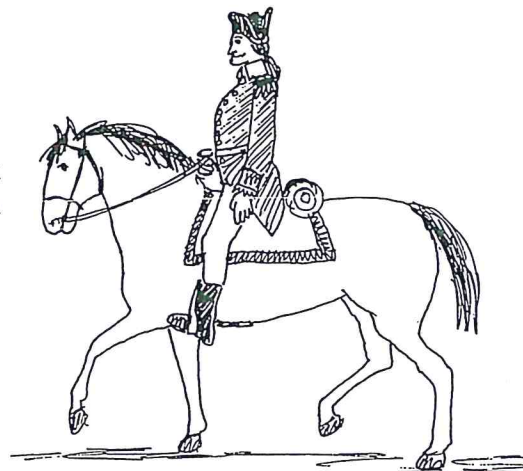
Where?

How?

Why?

Main Idea Sentence:

Extension: Choose several passages from a textbook to read. Then answer the questions above and write a main idea sentence for each passage.



Inferences

Goal: Use dialog to make inferences

Read what each person is saying. Then use the information to infer the speaker's occupation. Underline the words that helped you make your inference.

1. "I think we're about ready to go here. Let's get him numbed up. You might feel a little sting here, Danny."

"There, I think that will do it."

"I'll be back in just a few minutes, and we'll get that filling taken care of."

What is this person's occupation? _____

2. "I can't believe what I'm seeing out there! Haven't any of you been paying attention?"

"Robinson, you look like you're taking a walk through the park. Find your man and stick to him. He's lighting you up out there. And, Rodriguez, if you don't learn to take care of the ball better, you can sit on the bench with me."

"Now let's get out there and make some good decisions this half!"

What is this person's occupation? _____

3. "Hi. What can I do for you?"

"Great. I might have something over here that you'll like. Looks like red might be your color. Why don't you just go in there and try it on? I'll see if I can find some other things you might like."

What is this person's occupation? _____

4. "All right, order up. Here's your two over easy and wheat, no butter."

"Could you guys write a little neater? How am I supposed to get these orders right if I can't read them?"

"Would somebody grab me another box of bacon from the cooler? Looks like we have a table of 16 to do."

What is this person's occupation? _____

TEST: A Healthy Addition to Your Diet

What is leafy green, crispy, tasty, and can be used in a variety of meals? Spinach! Spinach is the best food ever.

Spinach is the best food. It is super healthy. Did you know spinach is packed with vitamins and fiber? Spinach will keep you strong and healthy like Popeye.



Spinach is an awesome vegetable. It can be used in a variety of ways. Spinach can be eaten raw in a salad. It can be cooked as a side. Don't like cooked spinach? Try it on a pizza. Still don't like the taste of this leafy green? Try blending spinach in a smoothie with bananas and orange juice. You won't even taste it. Spinach is a very versatile vegetable that you can add to any meal.

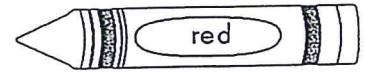
Spinach is a super food because you can grow it yourself. Growing spinach in your garden is easy. Simply plant the seeds in dirt and water it regularly. Then you will be able to pick this amazing vegetable any time you want!

Spinach truly is an amazing and versatile vegetable. It is fun to find creative ways to put this leafy green into your meals.

Answer Questions

Answer the following Questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

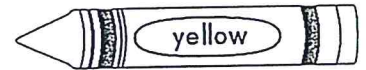
1. What is the author's opinion in this text?



2. When can you eat spinach?

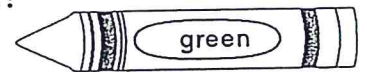


3. How do you know spinach is healthy?



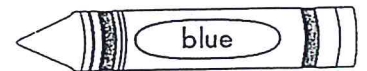
- a. Spinach is tasty.
- b. Popeye loves spinach.
- c. Spinach can be cooked.
- d. Spinach is packed with vitamins and fiber.

4. What reasons does the author give to support their opinion?



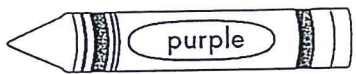
- a. Spinach can be used in a variety of ways.
- b. Spinach is green.
- c. Spinach tastes sweet and delicious.
- d. You can grow your own spinach.

5. What can you do if you don't like cooked spinach?

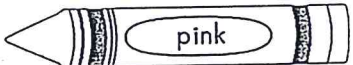


Answer Questions

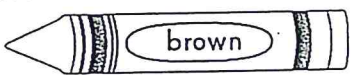
6. Why does the author call spinach a super food?



7. Why would a person put spinach in a smoothie?

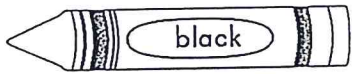


8. What is another way the author may suggest you use spinach?



- a. in your ice cream
- b. on a cheeseburger instead of lettuce
- c. give it to your dog
- d. mixed in cookie dough instead of chocolate chips

9. Ask your own who, what, when, where, why, or how question about the text. Write the answer to the question below.



Question: _____

Answer: _____

Does TikTok Belong in School?

YES

TikTok is a powerful learning tool.

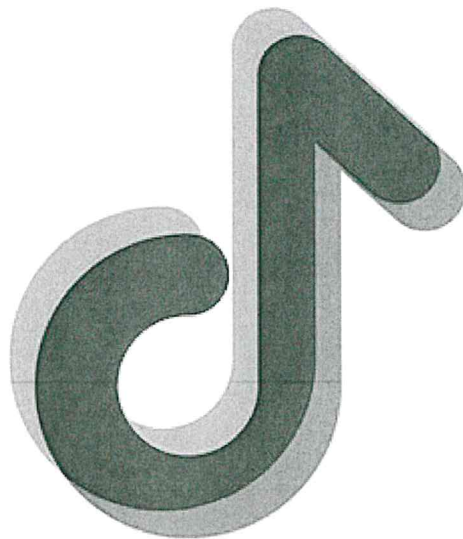
By Michael Johnson



Illustrations: Tom Garrett; Shutterstock.com

On the surface, TikTok may seem frivolous. Scroll through your feed and you'll see a slew of silly videos: a hamster eating a pancake, a cat falling into a bathtub, your friends lip-syncing to the latest Shawn Mendes song. But keep scrolling and you'll realize that TikTok is about more than silly videos. It is brimming with beautiful voices, epic dance moves, and impressive science experiments. It's a creative space where kids share their talents without judgment.

In fact, TikTok is a powerful learning tool. That's why it should have a place at Elmwood—just as it does at dozens of other schools around the country. Some teachers are making TikTok videos to explain complex topics. Other teachers are letting students submit TikTok videos for extra credit. A few schools even have TikTok clubs, where students work together to produce videos. This is a great way for students to develop important skills like collaboration and creativity.



Just imagine what TikTok could do for Elmwood. With the app's easy-to-use editing tools, the drama club could film skits and share them with the rest of the school. Student council members could make campaign videos during election season. The possibilities are endless.

Yes, there may be challenges. Some of the content is inappropriate and user comments can get mean and ugly. But according to a poll I conducted of 75 Elmwood students, TikTok feels a lot kinder than other social media.

“You don’t have to pretend you’re something you’re not,” eighth-grader Sam Regan said. “You can just be yourself!”

Besides, the app’s community guidelines prohibit any content that could be harmful, dangerous, or lead to bullying. Elmwood could also come up with its own rules for using the app at school, such as requiring that accounts be private or that the comments feature be turned off.

So let’s follow the example of the 1 billion people who have downloaded TikTok and start making use of this powerful learning tool at our school.

NO

TikTok should stay at home.



Illustrations: Tom Garrett; Shutterstock.com

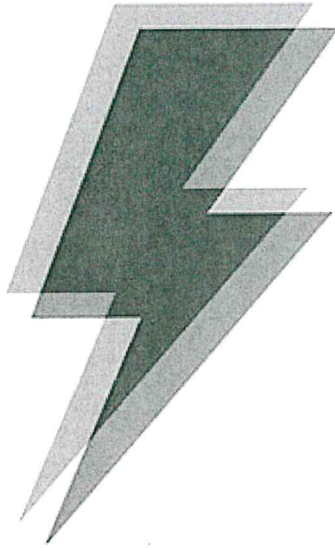
TikTok is an amazing video-making app. Last year, it was the third-most-downloaded app in the world. And it has a reputation for being less competitive and stressful than other types of social media, such as YouTube and Instagram.

But does any of this mean that TikTok belongs at our school?

No. And here's why: For all its benefits, TikTok will create many problems for Elmwood students.

First of all, TikTok is addicting—so addicting, in fact, that anti-addiction measures had to be added to the app in China, where TikTok was created, because kids were spending so much time on it. (These measures have not been added to the U.S. version.) If we had TikTok at Elmwood, students could easily spend a whole class period scrolling through their #foryou pages instead of doing their actual work. What's more, countless studies have shown that excessive time on social media can be harmful, leading to anxiety and depression.

Why would we want to bring that into our school day?



It's true that TikTok has a less judgmental vibe than other social media, but bullying still goes on. What happens if a student posts a video that they made in school and gets bullied for it?

Another concern? TikTok says the app is best-suited for teenagers and adults. In a high school, this would not be an issue, but Elmwood has many students younger than 13.

But the biggest concern, in my opinion? The app is currently under investigation by the U.S. government. They are looking into how TikTok collects and stores our personal data. We should wait to see what the investigation reveals before our school starts using it.

Finally, consider this: Do we even want to associate TikTok with school?

Right now, TikTok is a fun, carefree playground where we can unwind and express ourselves. If it's part of our school day, will it lose its specialness?

In my opinion, the answer is yes.

So let's leave TikTok at home, where it belongs.

Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Hunt through each letter for the following elements.

1. The **central idea**, or **central claim**.
2. Two pieces of **supporting evidence**.
3. The **counterargument**.
4. Put a double star next to the writer's **rebuttal**.

YOU decide: Who makes the stronger argument?

This article was originally published in the February 2020 issue of scope magazine.

Name: _____ Date: Day 10

Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Fill in the boxes below to explore how the authors of the editorials in "Does TikTok Belong in School?" develop their arguments. We filled in some information for you.

	Michael Johnson	Genevieve Walsh
line(s) that expresses the central idea, or central claim	"In fact, TikTok is a powerful learning tool. That's why it should have a place at Elmwood—just as it does at dozens of other schools around the country."	
two pieces of evidence that support the central idea, or central claim	1. 2.	1. 2.