Introduction to Argumentative Essay

Name: _________________________________________   Date: _____________  Class Pd.: _______

Thesis Statement

Step 1: Thesis Development and Road Map: *Your thesis statement should have three parts.*

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   Topic
      /
     /   /
    Bucket #1 Bucket #2

   /   /
   Bucket #3
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Step 2: Now Write Your Thesis! *Restate your claim and then list the reasons that you listed for buckets 1-3 to create a thesis statement.*

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_____________________________________________________________ because

Topic

_________________________________________ and

Bucket #1       Bucket #2

_________________________________________.

Bucket #3
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Step 3: Introduction

1) Introduction
   a) Grabber/Hook (one sentence) – The very beginning of your essay is called the hook because it “hooks” your readers’ attention. The hook should relate to the topic of your essay, but it can take many forms. It can be an anecdote (a very short true story), a fact, a quote, or a rhetorical question (a question to which you don’t expect an answer).

   Should everyone get a trophy?
A. EXAGGERATION: Describe what the world might be like if kids got trophies for everything they did.

B. SURPRISING FACT: Find a fact related to this topic that will raise your readers’ eyebrows. Several surprising facts are included in the article. You can also do some research to find one that is not included in the article.

Should kids be on reality television?

A. ANECDOTE: Describe an embarrassing incident or situation you saw on reality TV.

B. SURPRISING FACT: Find a fact that will raise your readers’ eyebrows. Several surprising facts are included in the article. You can also do some research to find a surprising fact that is not included in the article.

Should plastic bags be banned from stores?

A. ANECDOTE: Describe a time when you used a reusable bag instead of a plastic bag.

B. SURPRISING FACT: Find a fact that will raise your readers’ eyebrows. Several surprising facts are included in the article. You can also do some research to find a surprising fact that is not included in the article.

Should school start later?

A. ANECDOTE: Describe a time when your school’s start time positively or negatively affected you.

B. SURPRISING FACT: Find a fact that will raise your readers’ eyebrows. Several surprising facts are included in the article. You can also do some research to find a surprising fact that is not included in the article.

b) Background or brief and relevant plot summary — Let readers know a little about the issue you will be writing about. This is not your point of view; it’s a very brief summary of the issue.

c) Thesis Statement (from Step 3) — Copy the thesis statement from the front side of the sheet.
Conclusion to Argumentative Essay

Counterargument: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

1) If you think plastic bags should be banned, summarize the strongest arguments of those who think otherwise. Alternatively, if you think plastic bags should not be banned, summarize the main reasons why some disagree with you.

2) If you think it’s perfectly fine for children and teens to appear on reality-TV programs, summarize the reasons some people might disagree with you. On the other hand, if you think kids should stay off such programs, explain what others might say in defense of kids being on reality TV.

3) If you think the way we reward young athletes should change, point out an argument that coaches, parents, and kids who like the current reward system might make. If you think the way we reward young athletes is fine the way it is, explain why some think otherwise.

4) If you believe schools should start later, summarize the strongest arguments of those who defend an early start time. Alternatively, if you think schools should start early, summarize the main reasons some say school should start late.
Conclusion

1) Use 2-3 sentences to remind your readers of your main points listed in the essay.

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2) Finish with a strong final sentence. Looking for an idea? Try referring to your hook, finding a quote, or inspiring your readers.

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