

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Write an Argument Essay

**Directions:** Read "Should Parents Help With Homework?" Fill in the chart on page 21. Then follow the steps below to write an essay explaining your opinion on whether or not parents should help kids with homework.

## STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

Should parents help kids with their homework? Consider what you read in the article, as well as your own viewpoints. **Check the box next to the point of view you will support in your essay. Or write your own opinion in the space provided.**

Yes! That's what parents are for.

No! Homework is for students.

\_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 2: FIND YOUR SUPPORT

Which of the items that you wrote in the "Yes" and "No" columns on page 21 support your opinion? What are other points that support your opinion? List three to five supporting items here:

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## STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

If you think parents should not help with homework, summarize the strongest arguments of those who disagree with you. Alternatively, if you think it is OK for parents to help with homework, summarize the main reasons that some people think parents' help does more harm than good.

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**STEP 4: CRAFT YOUR THESIS (CENTRAL CLAIM)**

The thesis is where you tell readers what your essay is going to be about. The thesis should be a clear, strong statement of the opinion you stated in Step 1. The rest of your essay should support your thesis.

**Your thesis:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

do not use it

**STEP 5: WRITE YOUR HOOK**

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 story), a fact, a quote, or a rhetorical question (a question to which you don't expect an answer). **Choose one of the ideas below, or use your own idea, and write a hook on the lines provided (1-3 sentences).**

- 1. **ANECDOTE:** Describe a personal experience when one of your parents helped you with homework. Was it a positive or negative experience?
- 2. **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 one that is not included in the article.
- 3. **RHETORICAL QUESTION:** Ask your readers a question that reflects your point of view about parents and homework. One way you could structure your question is like this: "Should your parents really be \_\_\_\_\_?"

**Your hook:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 6: SUMMARIZE THE ISSUE**

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—in this case, that people disagree over whether parents should help with homework.

**Your summary of the issue:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**STEP 7: START WRITING**

Now that you have the key ingredients for your essay, you are ready to start writing. On the next page, you'll find guidelines for how to organize your ingredients, as well as hints about what else you'll need to add.