

Performance Task: Argument Essay

Description:

Write an argument essay explaining how *Animal Farm* shows that revolutions can either protect or corrupt ideals. You will include key evidence from the novel and at least one example of persuasive messaging. You will explain how the messaging works to either protect or corrupt the ideals of the revolution through its use of rhetorical techniques. Finally, you will include a counterclaim and respond to it with evidence from the text.

Why This Task Matters:

Understanding how ideals and language shape belief helps you become a critical reader and responsible participant in civic life. By connecting Orwell's allegory to real-world propaganda, you'll learn to evaluate messages not just by their intent, but by their reasoning and impact.

Criteria for Success:

- The claim clearly argues how *Animal Farm* shows that revolutions protect ideas, corrupt them, or both.
- The evidence is accurate, relevant, and drawn from the novel.
- The analysis explains how the evidence supports the argument.
- The explanation identifies how propaganda and rhetorical techniques are used in the text to support the claim.
- The organization is logical, with clear transitions and a cohesive structure.
- The response includes a counterargument and a clear rebuttal.
- The tone and style are formal and appropriate for academic writing.
- The vocabulary is precise and includes grade-appropriate academic and domain-specific words, showing understanding of key terms important to comprehension and expression.

Performance Task Rubric: Argument Essay

Use this rubric to check your work before you submit. Ask yourself: does my argument essay meet the Proficient description in every row?

Criteria	1 — Beginning	2 — Developing	3 — Proficient
Thesis & Argument Claim W.8.1.a	Does not include a clear claim, or the claim does not address how revolutions in <i>Animal Farm</i> protect or corrupt ideals.	Includes a claim about how revolutions protect or corrupt ideals, but the claim is vague or does not fully explain the argument about <i>Animal Farm</i> .	Includes a clear, specific claim that explains how <i>Animal Farm</i> demonstrates that revolutions can protect or corrupt ideals (or both).
Evidence & Analysis W.8.1.b	Does not include specific evidence from <i>Animal Farm</i> , or the evidence is not relevant to the claim. Analysis is missing or unclear.	Includes some evidence from the novel, but it may lack specific details or accuracy. Analysis is present but does not fully explain how the evidence supports the claim.	Includes key, accurate evidence from the novel with specific details. Provides clear analysis that explains how the evidence supports the argument about protecting or corrupting ideals.
Rhetorical Analysis & Persuasive Techniques W.8.1.b	Does not identify persuasive messaging or rhetorical techniques in the text. Does not explain how these techniques protect or corrupt ideals.	Identifies some persuasive messaging or rhetorical techniques, but the explanation is vague or incomplete. May not fully explain how the techniques work to protect or corrupt ideals.	Identifies at least one example of persuasive messaging from the text. Clearly explains the rhetorical techniques used and how they work to protect or corrupt the ideals of the revolution.
Counterclaim & Rebuttal W.8.1.b	Does not include a counterclaim or a rebuttal with evidence.	Includes a counterclaim, but the rebuttal is weak or lacks supporting evidence from the text.	Includes a clear counterclaim and provides a strong rebuttal supported by relevant evidence from the text.
Organization & Transitions W.8.1.c	Organization is unclear or difficult to follow. Transitions between ideas are missing or confusing.	Organization is mostly logical, but some transitions between ideas are weak or unclear. The essay structure could be more cohesive.	Organization is logical and easy to follow. Clear transitions guide the reader between ideas and paragraphs. The essay has a cohesive structure.
Language & Style	Language is informal or inappropriate for academic	Tone is mostly formal and appropriate for academic	Tone and style are formal and appropriate for

<p>W.8.1.d, W.8.1.e</p>	<p>writing. Vocabulary is basic and does not demonstrate understanding of key terms.</p>	<p>writing. Vocabulary includes some grade-appropriate academic terms, but may lack precision.</p>	<p>academic writing. Vocabulary is precise and includes grade-appropriate academic and domain-specific words that demonstrate understanding of key terms.</p>
<p>Conventions L.8.1, L.8.2</p>	<p>Contains frequent errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation that interfere with understanding.</p>	<p>Contains some errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation that occasionally interfere with clarity. Most conventions are correct.</p>	<p>Demonstrates command of standard English conventions. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are correct throughout.</p>