

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

# Write an Argument Essay

**Directions:** Read "Is It OK to Sneak Food Into the Movies?" Complete the essay kit on page 17. Then follow the steps below.

## STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

### Is it OK to sneak food into the movies?

Consider what you read in the article, as well as your own viewpoints.  
Check the box next to the point of view you will argue in your essay.  
Or write your own opinion in the space provided.

**Yes!** What's the big deal?

**No!** I'd never!

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 2: GATHER SUPPORT FOR YOUR OPINION

Look at what you wrote in the "Yes" and "No" columns on page 17. Which points support your opinion? What other information supports your opinion? List at least three supporting details on the lines below.

**Here's an example: If you think it is NOT OK to sneak food into the movies, one of your supporting details might be: "If moviegoers were to stop purchasing food, theater owners would have to raise ticket prices even higher."**

**1.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE**

If you think it is NOT OK to bring food into the movies, summarize the strongest arguments of those who disagree. If you think it IS OK to bring food into the movies, summarize the main reasons some people think it's wrong to do so.

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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 gave in Step 1. The rest of your essay will support this thesis.

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

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**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:

- 1. An anecdote** (a very short story): Describe a time when you snuck food into the movies. Explain why it was—or wasn't—a good idea.
- 2. A 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. A rhetorical question** (a question to which you don't expect an answer): Ask your readers a question that reflects your point of view. Here's one way you could structure your question: *"Snacks make watching movies more enjoyable, but are they worth \_\_\_\_\_?"*
- 4. A quote:** Find a thought-provoking quote that relates to the topic of your essay.

**Choose one of the ideas above, or use your own idea, and write a hook on the lines provided.**

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

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# Argument Essay Outline

**Directions:** Use the outline below to write your essay. You will use what you wrote on the first three pages of this activity.

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**Open with your hook from Step 5.**

↓

Write a transition sentence that relates your hook to the question of whether it's OK to sneak your own food into the movies.

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(See *Scope's* handout "Great Transitions" for some ways to link your ideas.)

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Write your summary of the issue from Step 6.

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Finish with your thesis from Step 4.

**2 BODY PARAGRAPH(S)**

**Now write your supporting points from Step 2. For each one, write 1-3 sentences that provide additional details.**

You can put your supporting points and detail sentences together in one paragraph or you can split them into several paragraphs. It depends on how much you want to write about each point.

*Hint! Order your supporting points from weakest to strongest. Readers will best remember details that are presented last.*

**3 ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE**

**Now it's time to recognize the other side of the argument.**

Use what you wrote in Step 3.  
Then explain why you think the opposing point of view is wrong.

**4 CONCLUSION**

**Write 2-3 sentences to remind your readers of your main points.**

Finish with a strong final sentence.

*Need an idea? Refer to your hook, find a quote, or give a call to action.*

**5 READ AND REVISE**

**Use *Scope's* "Argument-Essay Checklist" to evaluate and edit what you have written.**

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Listen to the words and definitions aloud at Scope Online.

# Vocabulary:

## "Is It OK to Sneak Food Into the Movies?"

1. **culprit (KUHL-priht)** *noun*; A culprit is a person or thing responsible for some offense, harm, or crime. If a car is stolen, the police might look for the culprit. If the kitchen smells bad, the rotting banana in the garbage might be the culprit.
  
2. **fund (fuhnd)** *verb or noun*; As a verb, *fund* means "to provide money for something." The PTA might fund your class field trip to the art museum.  
  
As a noun, *fund* refers to a supply of money to be used for something specific. Parents might save money in a "college fund" for their kids.
  
3. **nosh (nahsh)** *verb or noun*; As a verb, *nosh* means "to eat or snack ." Your mom might tell you to quit noshing on chips so that you don't spoil your dinner.  
  
*Nosh* can also be used as a noun meaning "a snack or light meal." You might say to your friend, "Let's have a quick nosh before we go to the concert."
  
4. **price gouging (prayhs GOWJ-ing)** *noun*; Price gouging is the act of unfairly raising the price of a good or service a company provides. For example, say there is going to be a blizzard tomorrow and a grocery store decides to charge \$8 for milk instead of the usual \$4. The increase in price is not because the milk is of higher quality or costs more for the store to buy from the farmer; it's because the store knows people are going to be stocking up on milk, and it has decided to take advantage of its customers and make some extra money. Luckily, certain kinds of price gouging are against the law.
  
5. **profit (PROF-iht)** *verb or noun*; As a noun, *profit* refers to the money gained from an investment or a sale. If you just sold your bike for \$50, and you paid only \$30 for it when you bought it, you made a \$20 profit! If a business is making a profit, it means they are making more money than they are spending. (If a store is not making a profit, it might be going out of business soon!)  
  
As a verb, *profit* can mean "to make a profit" or "to get a benefit from something." You might profit from playing the piano, for example, even if you don't get paid to do it.

**6. radical (RAD-ih-kuhl)** *adjective or noun*; As an adjective, *radical* can be used to describe something that is completely different from what is ordinary, traditional, or accepted. If a politician has radical plans, he or she plans to do things very differently than they've been done before.

*Radical* can also be used as a noun to refer to a radical person. For example, if a group of people separate themselves from, or rebel against, a government, they may be referred to as radicals.

**7. revenue (REV-uh-noo)** *noun*; *Revenue* is the total amount of money a business brings in *before* it subtracts any expenses required to earn that money. For example, say a peanut butter company makes \$7 million in revenue. Out of that \$7 million, the company has to pay for a lot of things: It has to pay for jars, it has to pay the company who prints its jar labels, it has to pay farmers for peanuts, it has to pay the people who work in the peanut butter factory, and so on.

Revenue is all the money you bring in. Profit is what's left after you pay the bills.

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**Directions:** In the space below, list any other words from the article whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.

# Vocabulary Practice

## "Is It OK to Sneak Food Into the Movies?"

**Directions:** Fill in the circle next to the best answer to each question.

1. The charity was able to \_\_\_\_\_ the construction of a new animal adoption center.

Which word fits best in the sentence above?

- Ⓐ price gouge
- Ⓑ fund
- Ⓒ profit
- Ⓓ nosh

2. Justin got a flat tire on the way to school. Which of the following is the most likely culprit?

- Ⓐ an air pump
- Ⓑ a new tire
- Ⓒ a nail in the road
- Ⓓ a gas station

3. After a hurricane hits an area, many people may lack access to running water. A store raising the price of its drinking water after a hurricane is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.

Which term best fits in the sentence above?

- Ⓐ profiting
- Ⓑ noshing
- Ⓒ funding
- Ⓓ price gouging

4. Sarah made \$35 selling lemonade. After she subtracted \$8 for the cost of the lemons, cups, and sugar, she had \$27 left.

What is the \$27?

- Ⓐ Sarah's revenue
- Ⓑ Sarah's profit
- Ⓒ Sarah's culprit
- Ⓓ Sarah's nosh

**Directions:** Complete each unfinished sentence in a way that makes the meaning of the boldfaced word clear.

5. The company increased its **revenue** this year. As a result, \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

6. My dad said to expect **radical** changes in town once the new mayor takes office. The mayor plans to \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

7. Brian asked me to pack a **nosh** for our hiking trip. I packed \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## SKILL: Essay Writing

# Argument-Essay Checklist

**Directions:** Use this guide to check your own essay, or exchange papers with a classmate and use the list to check each other's essays. In the margins of the essay you are checking, make notes about anything that needs to be revised.

## Introduction

- ✓ Does the first sentence grab readers' attention?
- ✓ Does the first paragraph provide a general overview of the essay's topic?
- ✓ Does the first paragraph include a thesis statement that strongly and clearly states your point of view? Does the thesis clue readers in as to what the essay is going to be about?

## Body Paragraphs

- ✓ Do they contain a total of at least three points that support the thesis?
- ✓ Do they provide details to further explain each of the supporting points?
- ✓ Are the supporting points presented in order from weakest to strongest?
- ✓ Do you acknowledge an opposing point of view and then explain why you think it isn't strong enough to change your point of view?

## Conclusion

- ✓ Does the last paragraph remind readers of the main points of the essay, without going into *too* much detail and repeating everything readers just read?
- ✓ Is the conclusion free of new information (such as another supporting point)?
- ✓ Does the last sentence leave readers with a strong final impression?

## General

- ✓ Does one idea flow smoothly into the next?
- ✓ Do the sentence structures and lengths vary?
- ✓ Does every sentence relate to the thesis?
- ✓ Does everything make sense?
- ✓ Is the essay convincing?
- ✓ Are the grammar, punctuation, and spelling correct?

## SKILL: Essay Writing

# Great Transitions

Transitions are like bridges between your ideas—they help your readers move from one idea to the next. Here are some transition words and phrases you may wish to use in your essay. Keep in mind that they can be used at the beginning of a sentence or within a sentence.

**If you are adding information or showing similarity between ideas:**

- additionally
- besides
- so too
- first of all/secondly/thirdly
- in addition
- also
- likewise
- to begin with
- as well as
- another
- furthermore
- finally

**If you are showing that one idea is different from another:**

- however
- even though
- in contrast
- on the one hand/on the other hand
- yet
- despite
- still
- some people say/other people say
- but
- although
- in spite of
- regardless

**If you are showing that something is an example of what you just stated:**

- for example
- to illustrate
- this can be seen
- for instance
- namely
- specifically

**If you want to show cause and effect:**

- as a result
- consequently
- so
- it follows that
- therefore
- eventually

**If you want to add emphasis:**

- in fact
- of course
- truly
- even
- indeed