

Reading a Sample Argument Essay

After reading carefully through the essay “Children Need to be Taught Right from Wrong” respond to the following prompts:

1. Is there an explicit argumentative thesis/**claim**? What is it, and where does it reside in the essay?
2. What are the author’s **reasons** for the claim presented?
3. Can you locate evidence in the essay? If so, identify three instances of the writer supporting claims with evidence.
4. Is the writer interpreting the evidence—that is, is he spelling out connections, qualifying a claim? If so, identify where and how.
5. Is this writer providing reasons and evidence that are valid? Point out places where the reasoning and support are effective or ineffective.
6. Anticipate and address at least one counterclaim.

Outlining & Writing your own Extended Response (Argument Essay) using claim/reasons/evidence Structure:

1. Compose an argumentative claim for your essay (that directly answers the writing prompt).
2. Compose three reasons that follow logically and thoughtfully from your thesis/claim, and for each reason describe the sorts of evidence (from the texts) you intend to use.
3. Take one reason and its set of evidence from step #2 and compose a paragraph in which you make the connections between evidence and reasons overt. Cite which source the evidence is from.