

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Somewhere in the Darkness, Day 1

Name: _____

Date: _____

8. Bridge to a Language Building Lesson

Read: Persuasive Paragraph, Pg. 101

Activity: Fill in the Blanks.

1. In a _____ paragraph, you give your _____ about a topic. To be persuasive, you must provide plenty of facts and _____ to support your opinion.

Read: *No to School Uniforms*

Activity: Re-write the introductory sentence and the concluding sentence in your own words.

Introduction:

Conclusion:

Activity: Write a topic persuasive sentence that Mama Jean would agree with. Write a concluding sentence for the same paragraph.

Introduction:

Conclusion:

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Somewhere in the Darkness, Day 2

Name: _____

Date: _____

Review: Pg. 117, *Writing Persuasive Essays*

Activity: Think about today's reading of *Somewhere in the Darkness*. Decide on a strong one-sentence answer to the question, "What will happen to Jimmy if he continues to skip school and disobey Mama Jean?" Record your answer in the form of an Introductory sentence for a persuasive paragraph. You will use this later to begin your journal.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Somewhere in the Darkness, Day 3

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pgs. 118-119, *Sample Persuasive Essay: "Teens Dial Up"*

Activity: Answer the following questions concerning the essay, "Teens Dial Up."

1. How many main points does the author use to support his opinion?

2. What else does he do in the last paragraph?

3. Locate and rewrite the authors opinion (or thesis statement) in your own words.

4. Write a thesis about whether or not Mama Jean should let Crab take Jimmy.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Somewhere in the Darkness, Day 4

Name: _____

Date: _____

Review: pgs. 118-119 “Teens Dial Up”

Activity: Here are three arguments for why teens ought to have cell phones. Fill in the blanks on the outline below;

I. Parents buy cells for kids as a safety measure

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
 - i. EXAMPLE: _____

II. Cell phones make kids healthier

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

III. Cell phones teach _____

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Activity: Pretend you have just been caught stealing candy from your little brother or sister. Use the outline below to plan an essay convincing him or her that you were just trying to help.

I. Candy makes kids hyper.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

II. Candy is bad for your teeth.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

III. I was just going to keep it safe for you.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Activity: In your own words explain the opposing viewpoint and the concessions provided in “Teens Dial Up.”

Activity: Review your candy outline above. Fill out an outline for an opposing viewpoint and its concessions.

IV. It is true that in most situations, stealing is wrong, but...

- a.

- b.

- c.

Activity: Restate the thesis and the three arguments in the essay, “Teens Dial Up” following the outline

- V.

- a.

 - b.

 - c.

Activity: conclude your outline on Candy Stealing by rewriting your thesis and restating your main points using the outline below.

- VI.

- a.

 - b.

 - c.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Somewhere in the Darkness, Day 5

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pg. 120, Writing Guidelines: Prewriting—Choosing a Topic

Activity: Use the space below to explain the purpose of a persuasive essay

Activity: Review the list of possible topics. Place a “P” in front of topics that are clearly persuasive.

- _____ 1. Greed
- _____ 2. Greed is harmful to society.
- _____ 3. Killing
- _____ 4. All people should be treated equally.
- _____ 5. Revolution
- _____ 6. It is your responsibility to stand up against injustices.
- _____ 7. An educated public is important to a successful society.
- _____ 8. Having compassion for others can provide you with a fuller, happier life.
- _____ 9. It is never too late to change your life for the better.
- _____ 10. Laziness
- _____ 11. Self-centeredness hurts relationships at both the individual and the societal level.

Activity: Later, you will write a journal entry as if you were Jimmy. It will begin, “Stealing is a very serious crime” Use the space below to collect main supporting points for this.

I. Stealing is a very serious crime

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Somewhere in the Darkness, Day 6

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pg. 121, Writing: Writing the First Draft

Activity: Use the space provided to summarize using your own words what belongs in the beginning, middle and ending of a persuasive essay.

Beginning:

Middle:

Ending:

Activity: Write an outline for a persuasive essay on why Jimmy made the right choice in going with Crab. Plan an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Think about including, facts and quotes.

INTRODUCTION.

ARGUMENT 1.

ARGUMENT 2.

ARGUMENT 3.

CONCLUSION.

Activity: Use the space below to create an editing checklist similar to the revising checklist on page 121. Be sure to include checklist questions covering **Sentence style and word choice, spelling, grammar, and punctuation.**

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Somewhere in the Darkness, Day 7

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pg. 122, Using a Graphic Organizer

Activity: Use the space below to create a graphic organizer that will help you plan a persuasive essay arguing that Crab is innocent.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Somewhere in the Darkness, Day 8

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pg. 123, Thinking Through an Argument: Stating an opinion

Activity: Identify the following Statements as either “fact”, “value,” or “policy.”

- _____ 1. Despite what you might think, most hunters are friends of the environment.
- _____ 2. Cell phones can make teens safer, healthier, and more responsible.
- _____ 3. The North Section School Board should approve metal detectors.
- _____ 4. Murder is a serious crime.
- _____ 5. Laws preventing alcohol use by minors should have strict consequences.
- _____ 6. Violence affects all aspects of society.

Activity: Write three statements of opinion below. Each should be based on *Somewhere in the Darkness*.

1. Opinion:

2. Opinion:

3. Fact:

Read: Pg. 123, Thinking Through an Argument: Using Qualifiers

Activity: Place a check mark next to the Qualifiers below.

_____ Almost _____ Usually _____ All _____ Some _____ Every _____ Most
 _____ Always _____ Often _____ Never _____ Probably _____ None _____ In most
 cases

Activity: Review your opinion statements above. Revise three of them, using a qualifier.

Opinion:

Opinion:

Opinion:

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Somewhere in the Darkness, Day 9

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pg. 124, Adding Support

Activity: Write the type of persuasive support next to its description.

_____ 1. According to Dr. Gregory Nathan, director of the Department of Parks and Resources, accidental hunting deaths from gunshot wounds have been declining in recent years.

_____ 2. A recent marketing survey found that 60 percent of parents plan to purchase cell phones for their children.

_____ 3. More and more teens will own cell phones in the future.

_____ 4. In the past, teens were usually stuck if they had car trouble or needed some other kind of help. Today, they can quickly and easily use their cell phones to contact help.

_____ 5. The participants in the hunter safety course asked many important questions.

_____ 6. According to the survey, more families reported being financially worse off this year than last.

_____ 7. While in Moscow on vacation, I met three people who had survived the Gulag after being sent there during Stalinist Purges.

Activity: Write three supporting sentences of your own to back up the following statement: "All people deserve to be free."

Statistic:

Comparison:

Observation:

Read: Pg. 124, Making Concessions

Activity: Answer the following questions regarding making concessions

1. Why are concessions a good idea in a persuasive essay?

2. Explain the use of the conciliatory phrase, "It is true that..."

3. Use "It is true that..." to start a sentence that would explain why it was wrong for Crab to rent a car using a stolen credit card.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Somewhere in the Darkness, Day 10

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pg. 125, Evaluating Persuasive Essays: Assessment Rubric

Activity: Fill in the blanks to complete this rubric.

_____ STIMULATING IDEAS

The Essay...

- _____
- _____

_____ LOGICAL ORGANIZATION

- _____
- _____
- _____

_____ ENGAGING VOICE

- _____
- _____

_____ ORIGINAL WORD CHOICE

- _____
- _____

_____ EFFECTIVE SENTENCE STYLE

- _____
- _____

_____ CORRECT, ACCURATE COPY

- _____
- _____

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Somewhere in the Darkness, Day 11

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: pg. 179-180 Editorial beginning, Topic/Opinion

Activity: Answer the following questions.

1. What do editorials address?

2. What is the opinion of Eboni Lewis' editorial that is presented in the introduction?

3. Imagine you are a newspaper writer assigned to write an editorial about teenage drinking. Select a more specific topic. Then from that topic, create an opinion.

Topic: _____

Opinion: _____

4. According to the Tips for Writing, why is it important to be direct when presenting your opinion in an editorial?

5. Does Eboni Lewis present her topic and her opinion clearly? Is there anything that she needs to change?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Somewhere in the Darkness, Day 12

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: pg. 179-180 Editorial middle, Plan a Strong Argument

Activity: Answer the following questions.

1. What information should be presented in the middle of an editorial?

2. Why is it important to plan a strong argument?

3. Pretend you are a human newspaper agent just returning from a spying mission on Jimmy and Crab. Plan an editorial in favor of Jimmy continuing to live with Crab. Formulate an opinion and use the five steps to plan a strong argument for your editorial.

Opinion: _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Activity: Answer the following questions.

1. What do you include in the ending of an editorial?

Activity: Match the tip with the explanation of that tip.

- _____ 1. Carefully consider your strongest argument
- _____ 2. Speak with confidence.
- _____ 3. Keep things
- _____ 4. Act responsibly

- a. Speak honestly and show that you really care about the topic. Also, make sure that you present a logical, reasonable argument.
- b. Place your strongest argument first or last so that it has a lasting impression on your readers
- c. The purpose of an editorial is to express your feelings about an action or event, not to attack a person or a group.
- d. Don't try to impress readers with your high-powered vocabulary. Instead, use words that everyone can understand.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Somewhere in the Darkness, Day 13

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: pg. 284 1-3

Activity: Answer questions about writing persuasive essays.

1. What are the resources you should use to thoroughly research your topic?

2. What is the next step after you research your topic?

3. What is the difference between a topic and an opinion?

4. What two things make a good opinion statement?

_____ + _____

5. What should you avoid when writing a good opinion statement?

6. Write an opinion statement using the formula.

_____ + _____ =

Read: pg. 284 4-5

Activity: Answer questions about facts and opinions and decide which facts are provable and which ones are improvable.

1. What are the two ways that you can organize your facts?

a. _____

b. _____

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Somewhere in the Darkness, Day 14

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: pg. 285 Avoiding Unclear Thinking, Avoid statements that jump to a conclusion

Activity: Answer questions about unclear thinking.

1. Why should you avoid jumping to conclusions in your writing?

Explain why these statements jump to a conclusion and revise them so that they no longer jump to that conclusion.

1. I can't find my car keys, so someone must have stolen them.

Revision: _____

2. The movie is not sold out, so it must not be very good.

Revision: _____

3. The sun is shining, so it must be summer.

Revision: _____

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Somewhere in the Darkness, Day 15

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: pg. 285 Avoiding Unclear Thinking, Avoid statements that jump to a conclusion

Activity: Answer questions about unclear thinking.

1. Although you can use popular opinion in your essay, what else is necessary to support the fact that most people agree? Why do you need additional support?

2. Create a statement that uses the fact that many people agree with an opinion, but use support other than opinion.

3. Why should you avoid exaggeration in your persuasive essay?

4. What is wrong with this statement? Why should it not be used in a persuasive essay?

All criminals are bad people and should be put in jail forever.

5. Why is it important to avoid unclear thinking in your persuasive essay?
