

# So You Think You Can *Argue*

Name: \*\* Teacher Key \*\*

Guided Teaching Worksheet



An **argument** is just a statement that someone believes is or should be true.

A **counterargument** expresses the opposite point of view.

**1**

A **supporting argument** explains why a main argument is true.



Kids should be in school Monday through Saturday!

Kids should not have to go to school on Saturdays!



And I can think of four reasons why not.

Reason #1: Students need a rest

Reason #2: Family time—parents may have weekends off

Reason #3: Students might have jobs

Reason #4: Students need time to pursue other activities

**2**

## → Are You Laboring Under a *Misconception*?? ←

MYTHS ABOUT ARGUMENTS	REALITY
An argument is just people yelling at each other.	Arguments can be very <u>calm</u> . An argument in writing is <u>silent</u> !
You have to totally believe in what you are arguing.	Making an argument has nothing to do with how you <u>feel</u> .
Every argument has a right and wrong side.	Most of the time, the two sides of an argument are just different <u>opinions</u> .
You can't be good at arguing unless you can think fast on your feet.	A lot of great arguing takes place on <u>paper</u> , where you can <u>think</u> everything through first.

# Subtle, but Significant differences between Persuasive Writing v. Argumentative Writing

<p><b>Goal</b> of persuasive writing: To get reader to agree with you/your point of view on a particular topic.</p>	<p><b>Goal</b> of argumentative writing: To get reader to acknowledge that your side is valid and deserves consideration as another point of view.</p>
<p><b>General technique</b> of persuasive writing: Blends facts and emotion in attempt to convince the reader that the writer is “right.”(Often relies heavily on opinion.)</p>	<p><b>General technique</b> of argumentative writing: Offers the reader relevant reasons, credible facts, and sufficient evidence to honor the writer has a valid and worthy perspective.</p>
<p><b>Starting point</b> of persuasive writing: <i>Identify</i> a topic <i>and</i> your side.</p>	<p><b>Starting point</b> of argumentative writing: <i>Research</i> a topic and <i>then</i> align with one side.</p>
<p><b>Viewpoint</b> presented in persuasive writing: Persuasion has a single-minded goal. It is based on a personal conviction that a particular way of thinking is the only sensible way to think. Writer presents one side— his side.</p> <p>(Persuasive writing <i>may</i> include ONE opposing point, it is then quickly dismissed/refuted.)</p>	<p><b>Viewpoint</b> presented in argumentative writing: Acknowledge that opposing views exist, not only to hint at what a fair-minded person you are, but to give you the opportunity to counter these views tactfully in order to show why you feel that your own view is the more worthy one to hold.</p> <p>Writer presents multiple perspectives, although is clearly for one side.</p>
<p><b>Audience</b> of persuasive writing: Needs intended audience. Knowing what they think and currently believe, the writer “attacks” attempting to persuade them to his side.</p>	<p><b>Audience</b> of argumentative writing: Doesn’t need an audience to convince. The writer is content with simply putting it out there.</p>
<p><b>Attitude</b> of persuasive writing: Persuasive writers want to gain another “vote” so they “go after” readers more aggressively. Persuasive writing is more personal, more passionate, more emotional.</p>	<p><b>Attitude</b> of argumentative writing: Simply to get the reader to consider you have an idea worthy of listening to. The writer is sharing a conviction, whether the audience ends up agreeing or not.</p>



# Soda Superstar



## Is it OK for Beyoncé to make ads for sugary drinks?

A lot of people are mad at Beyoncé right now. That's because she's starring in Pepsi ads. Her face is even appearing on soda cans.

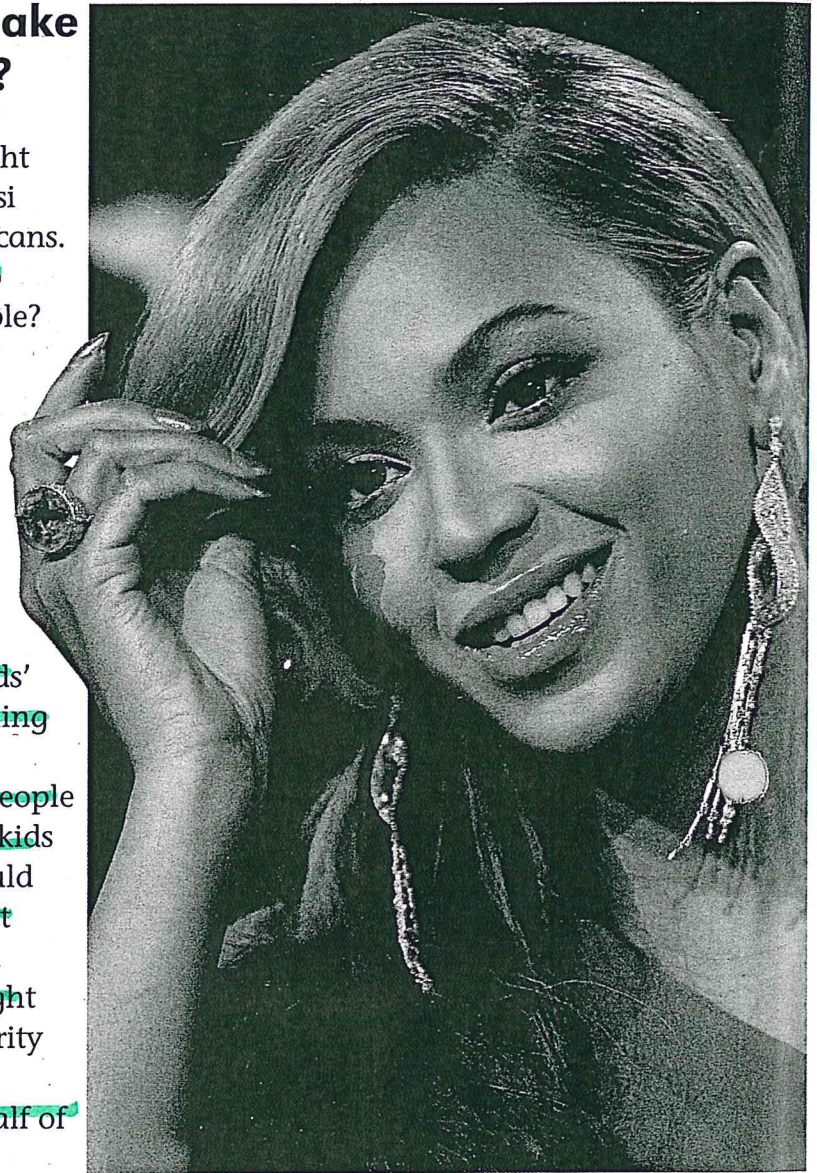
+ Companies often pay big stars to help sell products. So why is Beyoncé in trouble? Health experts warn that drinking soda has been linked to weight gain and obesity. That can lead to dangerous health problems.

Beyoncé also supports First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" program. It promotes exercise and a healthy diet for kids. Some people are confused. If Beyoncé cares about kids' health, why would she help sell something that many people agree is unhealthy?

- A lot of kids admire Beyoncé. Some people worry that if she advertises soda, some kids may be more likely to drink it. That could make more children become overweight and, possibly, develop health problems.

+ On the other hand, Beyoncé has a right to earn money. She's not the only celebrity to appear in soda ads. Plus, millions of

+ Americans already love soda. Nearly half of all Americans drink it every day.



### READ BOTH SIDES OF THE DEBATE AND DECIDE.



#### YES

It's OK for Beyoncé to be in soda ads. Here's why:

- 
- 
- 
- 

#### NO

Beyoncé should not appear in soda ads. Here's why:

- S
- S
- F
- S
- F
- C

ese  
and Chal  
tribution  
Copyright  
© 2010  
DANNY MOLOSHOK/REUTERS



Argument: Should Beyoncé appear in ads for sugary drinks?

# Yes + No

For example, Katy Perry stars in her own Pepsi ad.

For instance, B is like any other human trying to earn money.

Statistics show that nearly 1/2 of American already drink it daily.

1 B isn't the only celebrity to appear in ads. Companies often pay celebs to promote their products.

2 B has a right to earn money.

3 Many people already drink soda; B didn't start the trend.

3 Health experts warn that soda can lead to health problems.

1 B should promote products that help kids, not potentially hurt them.

2 B is a celebrity; therefore, more kids might drink soda if she promotes it.

**Writing Situation:**

There's a new controversy at Spencer County Middle School surrounding earbuds and the potential damage they may cause to your hearing. The debate centers around the question: Should you throw away your earbuds?

There are two sides of the argument at your school. On one side are students who have thrown away their earbuds and are urging others to also throw theirs away. The other side is keeping their earbuds and urging others to do the same.

**Writing Directions:**

The sixth grade students have been considering what to do with their earbuds due to the latest controversy that they can seriously harm their hearing. Due to this debate, the student leadership team has been asked to speak to the class. You have been asked to deliver a speech to the sixth graders due to your leadership skills in the class in order to share your side of the debate on whether they should throw away their earbuds or not.

Format who?

why?

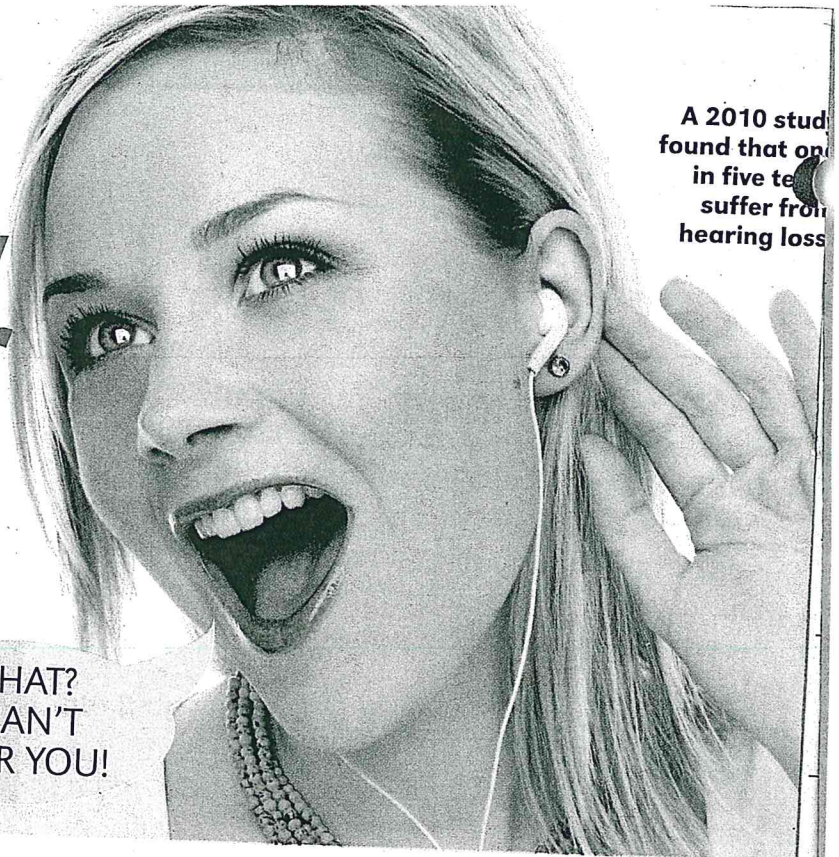
*Do not write outside this box.*




# Should You Throw Away Your Earbuds?

Doctors say that listening to music with earbuds can seriously harm your hearing.

WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU!



A 2010 study found that one in five teens suffer from hearing loss

Matthew Brady was 16 the day his world went silent. He had been listening to his iPod at full blast. Suddenly, says Matthew, "I could not hear a thing." That was four years ago. While some of his hearing returned, a doctor said Matthew has permanent hearing loss.

A 2008 study looked at headphone users who listen to loud music for an hour a day. It showed that they can suffer permanent hearing loss after five years. Earbuds are most dangerous, since their top volume is louder.

Noise-canceling headphones that go over your ears can be safer. After all, you won't

be as tempted to crank up the volume if you're not trying to drown out other sounds.

Does that mean you should toss out your earbuds? Alicia Henry, 16, doesn't plan to. She uses earbuds for four hours a day. She points out that noise-canceling headphones cost a lot more than earbuds and are not as convenient to carry around. Says Alicia, "The best solution is to limit your volume."

But Matthew isn't taking any chances with his hearing. He has stopped using earbuds altogether. That "may seem ridiculous," he says, "but the alternative is worse."

READ BOTH SIDES OF THE DEBATE AND DECIDE.

Vote Online!

[www.scholastic.com/actionmag](http://www.scholastic.com/actionmag)

**YES** Throw away those earbuds! Here's why:

- 
- 
- 

**NO** You shouldn't throw away your earbuds. Here's why:

- 
- 
-



Engage audience

TITLE  
Lose Those Earbuds, Not Your Hearing

Date  
April 15, 2015

Good morning fellow sixth graders,

Many of you have seen me before in your classes, but for those that don't know me, my name is \_\_\_\_, and you may be surprised to hear from me today that one in five teens suffer from hearing loss according to a 2010 study. That means 40 of you listening to me today could suffer from hearing loss even before you graduate from the eighth grade. Why? One source of hearing loss are those earbuds you use to listen to music. The controversy over earbuds has created quite a stir at SCMS, as you well know, and a debate on whether to toss or keep your earbuds has developed. I am here today to share my side of the argument that you should throw away your earbuds.

I can understand why many of you feel that the small, easy to carry earbuds are more convenient to take places. Despite their convenience, listening to loud music with earbuds has proven to result in permanent hearing loss. For example, a 2008 study found that headphone users who listen to loud music for an hour a day can suffer from permanent hearing loss after five years. To me, it only makes sense to pass on taking the risk of permanent hearing loss and pass on earbuds completely.

Still, I know that many of you sitting out there today enjoy listening to music most when it's at higher volumes, but that's not always the best for your ears. Kids, like us, can be tempted to crank up the music because earbuds allow us to increase to greater volumes. In fact, earbuds are the most dangerous because their top volume is louder than other types of headphones.

I can relate to those wanting to save money because safer, noise-canceling headphones are more expensive than earbuds. However, noise-canceling headphones are safer for your ears because you don't have to turn up the volume to drown out other sounds. Just consider when you're trying to listen to music at home and the vacuum cleaner is running and your little brother is being annoying. You would be able to listen to music at a lower volume with noise-canceling headphones because it will drown out the other sounds like the vacuum and your kid brother.

As you have heard today there are several reasons why you should throw away your earbuds. First, we know that listening to loud music can cause permanent hearing loss. Second, earbuds allow kids like us to listen to music at greater volumes tempting us to crank it up and cause greater damage. Finally, alternatives, like noise-cancelling headphones, are the better choice because they remove the background noise without increasing the volume. My fellow sixth graders, I hope you can join me in throwing away your earbuds today.

counterargument -> point -> supporting ex