

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

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

Understanding what a thesis is:

Below are several faulty thesis statements. On the lines provided, explain why each is faulty. Be prepared to discuss your answers.

\* Although cake is a popular dessert, everyone loves ice cream.

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\* While some detest the idea of building a new athletic field, others favor it.

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\* Since pointillism is hideous, paintings that use that technique should be removed from art galleries.

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On the lines provided, briefly explain why each of the theses below are sturdy, unfaulty statements. Be prepared to discuss your answers.

\* Although Titania in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is a queen, her power is minimal as she is control by her King Oberon and by Puck.

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\* Despite the fact that it is convenient to relieve a headache quickly by going to the drugstore and picking up some aspirin, Advil should only be accessible with a prescription as it will deter individuals becoming addictive to pain killers, and it will prevent people from overdosing on aspirin.

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## Facts, Inferences, and Judgements

In each group below is a fact, an inference, and a judgement. Label each accordingly.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The floors in my house are oak.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The floors must need finish from time to time.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The oak floors are pretty.
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Oregano is useful in tomato sauces.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Oregano is tasty.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Oregano is an herbal seasoning.
  
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The Atlantic Ocean separates America from Europe.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ That Atlantic Ocean is a large body of water.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ A bridge should cover the Atlantic Ocean.
  
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Ms. Peters' car is black.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Black is the best choice for a car color.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Car companies use black paint for cars.
  
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Public school institutions should display the American flag.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Independence Junior High must be a public school institution.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ There is an American flag in every classroom at IJHS.

On the lines provided, write a statement of fact, then a corresponding inference, and then a corresponding judgement.

Fact:

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Inference:

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Judgement:

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## Elements Need for an Engaging and Convincing Persuasive Essay:

### Introduction

- \* Get the reader's attention by using a "hook" (quote, anecdote, statistic, question, etc.).
- \* Give some background information.
- \* Compose your thesis and have your assertion to prove your thesis.

### First argument or reason to support your thesis

- \* Transition and topic sentence
- \* Elaboration and support to back your first assertion (kairos, pathos, ethos, logos, experiences, observations, etc.).
- \* Closing transition and closing sentence (Remember the closing sentence is not word for word like the topic sentence. Yes, it is the same point, but it is stated differently.)

### Second argument or reason to support your thesis

- \* Transition and topic sentence
- \* Elaboration and support to back your second assertion (kairos, pathos, ethos, logos, experiences, observations, etc.).
- \* Closing transition and closing sentence.

### (Optional) Third argument or reason to support your thesis

- \* Transition and topic sentence
- \* Elaboration and support to back your third assertion (kairos, pathos, ethos, logos, experiences, observations, etc.).
- \* Closing transition and closing sentence.

## Suggested Topics for the Persuasive Essay with Opposing Viewpoints

Please pick one topic and brainstorm several pros and cons for each of the following examples:

- \* Preteens and teens should not have unlimited text messaging.
- \* Adolescents should not be allowed to own a cell phone until they are sixteen years old.
- \* All music downloads should be monitored by parents.
- \* The amount of a preteen/teen's allowance should be tied directly to the chores that are completed.
- \* The school day and school year should be lengthened.
- \* Preteens and teens should not be allowed to have a television in their bedrooms.
- \* Computers should be kept in a "public place" in the home, so their use can be monitored.

- \* Preteens and teens should not be able to keep their bedrooms “any way they want them.”
- \* Students should be required to wear uniforms in all elementary and junior high schools.
- \* All preteens and teens should have a curfew every night of the week.

## SAMPLE PERSUASIVE ESSAY

THESIS STATEMENT: Despite the fact that many junior high students feel that they must stay up late to complete homework assignments, junior high school students should have designated bedtime on school nights as a lack of sleep affects students’ growth, concentration, and attitudes.

Benjamin Franklin may have been thinking about preteens and teens when he penned his famous quote, “Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.” Franklin was one of the great minds of his time, and he obviously saw the benefits of a good night’s sleep. Despite the fact that many junior high students feel that they must stay up late to complete homework assignments, junior high school students should have designated bedtime on school nights as a lack of sleep affects students’ growth, concentration, and attitudes.

Without sufficient sleep, the physical development of preteens and teens is affected making a designated bedtime a must for preteens and teens. Adolescence is a time of rapid physical growth, occurring faster than any other time besides infancy. Many junior high school students grow five to six inches in just one year! Because preteens and teens grow at an astounding rate, they need lots of sleep to counteract these physical and demanding changes. Moreover, pediatricians suggest that preteens and teenagers get at least ten hours of sleep per night in order to grow and function properly. Thus, having a designated bedtime is mandatory for the health and well-being of all junior high students.

Furthermore, designated bedtime on school nights enables preteens and teens to concentrate and focus while in school. Students have been known to fall asleep in the middle of class if they have not gone to bed early enough the night before. In fact, teachers report that students who are sleep deprived are less likely to pay attention in class and may even “zone out” during a class period. Therefore, waking up early for school is a must, so a reasonable bedtime is necessary so that students can function well in school.

Finally, students who do not have a designated bedtime usually have serious attitude problems; they are cranky, talk less, and are generally less responsive. Parents report that their adolescent children are less likely to participate in family activities if they have not had enough sleep. Lunchtime at school is a great time to talk and joke with

friends, but many students use this time to catch up on their sleep. Certainly, negative attitudes from a lack of sleep can adversely affect a teen's relationship with family, friends, teachers, and other acquaintances.

Granted, preteens and teens come up with lots of reasons to put off going to bed. Many claim that they have to stay up to finish homework or projects. However, with an organized schedule after school, students can complete this work in a reasonable amount of time. Another excuse is that adolescents want friends and family time before bed. Yet, students have plenty of time to be with their friends before, during, and after school. Many successful students favorite family time is when they sit down to a good meal and discuss what happened that day. Some students say that they just need some time to unwind. This is a very valid argument, but with careful planning, adolescents should be able to take care of all their schoolwork, spend some quality time with their family, and still have time to relax and wind down before going to bed.

In conclusion, preteens and teens should have a designated bedtime due to their rapid physical development, the need for concentration and focus, and to ensure a positive attitude the next day. Doctors, parents, teachers, and experts in the field agree that sleep deprivation is one of the main causes of physical, emotional, and social problems in adolescents. So, come on junior high students, hit the pillow at a reasonable time on school nights, so that when the alarm rings the next morning, you will be refreshed and ready to start a new day. Don't forget, the weekend will be here before you know it!