10/22/2024

Critical Reading and the RLA Extended Response

Handout

Types of Evidence to Support an Argument

Type of Evidence	Definition	Example Supporting Author's Claim
Factual	Truthful statements that cannot be denied. Statements that the average person may know or which can be proven.	
Statistics or Data	Numerical facts; can be presented in raw numbers, percentages, or fractions.	
Examples or Anecdotes	Real-life situations, events, or experiences that illustrate a position; anecdotal stories that can help explain an author's claim.	
Expert Testimony	The observations or conclusions of someone who is considered highly knowledgeable because he/she is an expert in a particular field of study or occupation; someone who has first-hand knowledge and experience.	
Logical Reasoning	An explanation which draws conclusions that the reader can understand; a discussion which helps the reader understand or make sense out of facts or examples offered.	
Emotional Appeal	Use of sympathy, fear, loyalty, etc. to persuade, manipulates the reader's emotions – ethos, pathos, logos.	

T Chart

T Chart Example from the [Taxation and Revenue Prompt](#)

For Highway 17 Expansion	Against Highway 17 Expansion
Provide jobs - Two factories recently closed - There is high unemployment - Provide construction jobs - 30% traffic increase will bring motels/restaurants, create jobs - Historical features will become tourist attractions helping shops/restaurants **Ease traffic congestion** - Stop 18 wheelers in town which will reduce road maintenance costs - 2001 Texas study bypass reduces town traffic by 75%	**Harm the town** - Few local residents will use the road - Construction jobs are temporary bandage - Only minimum wage jobs left after construction done - Four cities will be impacted by fewer travelers passing through - 2001 study showed bypass negatively affect local businesses cause town to lose money - Travelers will stay at highway exits, not in town **Federal road funds used for project that harms the town** - If state tax funds used, voters would have struck it down - Rep. Walls did not listen to townspeople's concerns

Citing the Evidence: Introduce-Cite-Explain/Elaborate

	What to Do	Example
I	Introduce your evidence (e.g., according to, another example of, as stated by, as said by, in addition to, to illustrate, etc.)	Another example of Dr. Morgan's stronger argument is the author's use of a 2012 research study.
C	Cite your evidence. Use appropriate parenthetical citations for all quotes.	The study that she uses reports that gaming shows a positive impact on higher-order thinking skills and that it reduces training time.
E	Explain and elaborate on how the evidence is connected or important to the claim that you are making. Provide an analysis that ties the evidence back to the argument that you are making.	Because training is an important part of the workplace, reducing training time and providing a more effective way of teaching new skills can positively enhance a workplace's return on investment.

Introduce	
Cite	
Explain/Elaborate	

Phrases to Describe Strengths and Weaknesses

Phrases to Discuss Passage Strengths (+)	Phrases to Discuss Passage Weaknesses (-)
better supported	unsupported personal opinion
reliable evidence	weak evidence
sound reasons	contradictory evidence
valid	invalid
logical	weak logic (illogical)
reliable (knowledgeable, unbiased, credible, etc.) source(s)	(This passage) lacks sound reasons…. (or any other phrases from the *strengths* column)
significant evidence	uncited sources (source is not identified)
recent sources	evidence is out-of-date (or no source is included)
relevant reasons / evidence	biased sources
substantiated evidence	unsubstantiated evidence
expert testimony	personal attacks (name-calling)
sufficient reasons / evidence	insufficient reasons / evidence
reputable source (strong reputation)	fallacy/fallacies
well-supported argument	oversimplification
supports (demonstrates)	false conclusion

Source: C. Gibson, WCCS Writing Center

Argument Writing Frame

_____ makes the claim that _____

_____

_____ makes the claim that _____

_____

The best argument is _____

_____

because _____

_____

The first reason _____ is better is because _____

_____

_____

Evidence supporting this reason is _____

_____

_____

_____

This evidence shows that _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Also, the second reason _____ is better is because _____

_____

_____

Evidence supporting this reason is _____

_____

_____

_____

This evidence shows that _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Next, the third reason _____is better is because _____

_____

_____

Evidence supporting this is _____

_____

_____

_____

This evidence shows that _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

In conclusion, _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

GED® RLA Practice Prompts Links

- [Writing for the GED® Test Book 4](#)

- [Tweens/Cell Phone; Game-Based Education, Parent Education; Internet Filtering at Work; Hosting Olympics](#)

- [Diamond Mining; Plastic Bags; Traffic Lights; Pro Athletes](#)

- [Taxation and Revenue](#)

- [Daylight Savings Time](#)