**To Build or Not to Build Student Handout:**

**Instructional Delivery:**

1. Write a one-sentence summary of each article (In this case, it’s the pros and cons of the same article.)

2. Which text has more reasons or support?

3. Are those important aspects to consider?

4. Am I biased by my own opinion?

5. Which article or text has the strongest argument and the most textual evidence as support?

Sample GED RLA Extended Response Prompt:

Analyze the arguments presented in the two journal articles. In your response, develop an argument in which you explain how one position is better supported than the other. Incorporate relevant and specific evidence from both sources to support your argument. Remember, the better-argued position is not necessarily the position with which you agree. This task should take approximately 45 minutes to complete.

**Guided Practice:**

Citation Example for an article found on a Web site:

Hollmichel, Stefanie. “The Reading Brain: Differences between Digital and Print.” *So Many Books*, 25 Apr. 2013, somanybooksblog.com/2013/04/25/the-reading-

brain-differences-between-digital-and-print/.

Text #1:

Title  
Author:

Date of Publication:

Container (website or online magazine name):

How credible is this article? Rank it from 1 to 10 with 10 being most credible. In other words, should you believe what is written in the article?

MLA Citation:

Text #2:

Title  
Author:

Date of Publication:

Container (website or online magazine name):

How credible is this article? Rank it from 1 to 10 with 10 being most credible. In other words, should you believe what is written in the article?

MLA Citation:

6. Write a one-sentence summary of each article.

7. Which text has more reasons or support?

8. Are those important aspects to consider?

9. Am I biased by my own opinion?

10. Which article or text has the strongest argument and the most textual evidence as support?

**Independent Practice:**

Find the following articles by following these instructions.

Go to google. Type “5 reasons to buy an old home” and choose the second hit. It should be at 20somethingfinance.com.

<https://20somethingfinance.com/5-reasons-to-buy-an-old-home-vs-a-new-home/>

Go to google. Type “reasons to choose a new home over a resale.” It should be the first hit and from money.usnews.com.

<http://money.usnews.com/money/personal-finance/real-estate/articles/2010/08/19/9-reasons-to-choose-a-new-home-over-a-resale>

11. Write a one-sentence summary of each article.

12. Which text has more reasons or support?

13. Are those important aspects to consider?

14. Am I biased by my own opinion?

15. Which article or text has the strongest argument and the most textual evidence as support?

**Answer Key for Independent Practice:**

11. Write a one-sentence summary of each article.

Miller contends that people should not buy new homes based on the cost of new homes, the environmental impact, the hassle, the lack of quality, and pride.

Mullins argues that people should buy a newly built home due to customization, building envelope, green appliances, fewer repairs, less maintenance, warranty, fire safety, concessions, and financing.

12. Which text has more reasons or support?

Mullins’s article has 9 reasons, while Miller’s article has 5. Mullins gives more support for his position. His paragraphs are full of evidence from various sources. His reasons aren’t just his opinions—he cites quotes from various experts in the field. Miller’s support is based mostly on his opinions; he mentions one statistic from the Associated Press.

13. Are those important aspects to consider?

All of the examples are logical—in both articles.

14. Am I biased by my own opinion?

15. Which article or text has the strongest argument and the most textual evidence as support? Mullins’s article in the U.S. News and World Report. Longer isn’t always better because writers can ramble or repeat themselves, but Mullins does not do this. His longer article has much more support than Miller’s.