Student Handout

**Claims: True or False? Circle true if the sentence is a claim and false if it simply an opinion that cannot be proven with evidence.**

True or False 1. Thin crust pizza is better than thick crust pizza.

True or False 2. Models should be required to maintain a healthy body weight.

True or False 3. High school students should be required to take a course on personal finance.

True or False 4. Doritos are better than Cheetos.

True or False 5. Parents should put GPS trackers on teens’ cars.

True or False 6. iPhones are better than Androids.

True or False 7. Mr. Smith’s argument is stronger because he uses logical reasoning and statistics to support his argument.

True or False 8. The clerk’s office should notify those whose driver’s licenses will soon expire.

True or False 9. The nation should raise the minimum wage.

True or False 10. Voters should show a photo id in order to vote in national elections.

**Introduction Checklist:**

**\_\_\_\_\_Summary of stronger passage.**

**\_\_\_\_\_Transition, summary of weaker passage.**

**\_\_\_\_\_Claim: Which passage is better supported and why.**

**Instructor Answer Key:**

**Video Introduction:**

In her speech, Mayor Lin argues that the city of Hope valley should adopt mandatory recycling because it saves landfill space, saves, money, and is easy to do.

Mr. Grimly, however, says that mandatory recycling is a bad idea because it is an expensive waste of time. His argument sounds like an emotional rant. Mayor

Lin’s speech is the stronger of the two positions because she used logical arguments based on statistics and a model from a successful recycling program.

**Game-Based Learning Sample Introduction**

In his essay, Dr. Robles contends that game-based learning is merely a fad because eLearning is not effective, traditional teaching helps students learn soft skills, and game-based learning is old ideas presented in new ways. However, Dr. Morgan contends that game-based learning is an effective corporate training strategy because many employers are already gamers and game-based learning is “infinitely repeatable.” Dr. Robles has the stronger argument because Dr. Morgan does not prove that game-based learning is actually effective.

**Opposite Viewpoint:**

In her essay, Dr. Morgan contends that game-based learning is an effective corporate training strategy because many employees are already gamers, and game-based learning is “infinitely repeatable.” However, Dr. Robles contends that game-based learning is merely a fad that will pass quickly. Dr. Morgan has the stronger argument since her essay is more so based on research and reports.

**Sample Parenting Education Intro**

In her essay, Ms. Fernandez, APRN, argues that parenting is an important job, that all jobs require training, and that parenting education is effective and can give parents the skills that they need. On the contrary, Ms. Thomas contends that parenting education infringes on the parents’ right of choice, there are many available options for parenting information, and mandatory parenting education would have funding and enforcement issues. Ms. Fernandez’s argument is significantly stronger than Ms. Thomas’s argument, which is not supported by any strong evidence.

**Sample Tweens and Cell Phones Intro**

In her speech, Ms. Sidner argues that parents should wait until their children are 16 to give them a cell phone. She says that cell phones do not make children safer, that cell phones give kids access to bad sites and freedom from parental monitoring, and that kid cell phone use has led to a rise in cyberbullying. However, Ms. Pendergast, a representative of a cell phone company, argues that most kids are ready for a cell phone by age 10 because most tweens already have cell phones, cell phones allow parents and tweens to contact each other, and cell phones empower kids and give them independence. Ms. Sidner’s argument is stronger because she is a more credible source, and all her claims are backed by research or logical examples.

**Introduction Checklist for Grading:**

**\_\_\_\_\_Summary of stronger passage.**

**\_\_\_\_\_Transition, summary of weaker passage.**

**\_\_\_\_\_Claim: Which passage is better supported and why.**