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| Position Essay Design Grid The final version must be typed and include only original words —**do not cut and paste from the originals.** | | |
| Problem | Describe the problem in a tangible, engaging way. This is a good place to use trend data. | |
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| Available Positions | What are the poles or common positions people take addressing this problem? Focus on the key Policy, Definition, Value disagreement(s) here. | |
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| Thesis Claim (The position you take on this controversy) | | |
| Thesis Position | State the position that should be adopted here. Remember, a position takes a stance by choosing from the options and/or constructing a new option from the available choices. State the claim in one to two sentences. | |
| Benefit | Name the key stakeholders and describe how they benefit from adoption the thesis claim. The goal of this essay is to persuade them to do so. | |
| Affirmative Argument | | |
| Supporting Argument 1 | State the assertion. What rhetorical appeal will you use to present this claim? Consider rhetorical appeals – is your essay making an appeal to logic, credibility, emotion, urgency? Frame the assertion with the appeal in mind. | |
| Evidence | Summarize the evidence that illustrates/supports this assertion. | |
| Source | Author’s Name, “Title” | Type (expert, statistical, case study, representational) |
| Reason | Explain how this assertion + evidence convinces a reader to support the thesis position. | |
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| Supporting Argument 2 | State the assertion. What rhetorical appeal will you use to present this claim? Consider rhetorical appeals – is your essay making an appeal to logic, credibility, emotion, urgency? Frame the assertion with the appeal in mind. | |
| Evidence | What evidence illustrates/supports this assertion | |
| Source | Author’s Name, “Title” | Type (expert, statistical, case study, representational) |
| Reason | Explain how this assertion + evidence convinces a reader to support the thesis claim. Consider rhetorical appeals – is your essay making an appeal to logic, credibility, emotion, urgency? | |
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| Supporting Argument 3 | State the assertion. What rhetorical appeal will you use to present this claim? Consider rhetorical appeals – is your essay making an appeal to logic, credibility, emotion, urgency? Frame the assertion with the appeal in mind. | |
| Evidence | What evidence illustrates/supports this assertion | |
| Source | Last Name, First Name, “title” | Type (expert, statistical, case study, representational) |
| Reason | Explain how this assertion + evidence convinces a reader to support the thesis claim. Consider rhetorical appeals – is your essay making an appeal to logic, credibility, emotion, urgency? | |
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| Supporting Argument 4 (optional) | State the assertion. What rhetorical appeal will you use to present this claim? Consider rhetorical appeals – is your essay making an appeal to logic, credibility, emotion, urgency? Frame the assertion with the appeal in mind. | |
| Evidence | What evidence illustrates/supports this assertion | |
| Source | Last Name, First Name, “title” | Type (expert, statistical, case study, representational) |
| Reason | Explain how this assertion + evidence convinces a reader to support the thesis claim. Consider rhetorical appeals – is your essay making an appeal to logic, credibility, emotion, urgency? | |
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| Opposing Arguments | | |
| Opposing Argument | State the opposing assertion. Is there a rhetorical critique that also helps explain the problem with this viewpoint? | |
| Evidence | What evidence illustrates/supports this opposing assertion? | |
| Source | Author’s Name, “title” | Type (expert, statistical, case study, representational) |
| Counter Claim | How will you rebut/refute this opposing assertion? Describe your counter assertion and evidence you will use. Rhetorical Analysis may be helpful here. | |
| Reason | Explain why your target audience should adopt your view / your position and not the opposing argument. | |
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| Value and Impact | | |
| Explain the value of adopting the position you advocate. Connect your position to a support for a larger social value in your answer. | | |