

Name: _____

Planning the GHSGWT Essay

Step 1: State *opposing* positions that clearly address the prompt.

Position 1:

Position 2:

Step 2: Choose the position that you will argue.

Thesis/Main Idea:

Reasons/Evidence:

Step 3: Consider the audience.

Who is your audience? What is important to this person or group? What might the audience already think about the issue? What type of evidence and rhetorical strategies will the audience respect? What type of language will be most convincing?

Step 4: Produce a word bank of synonyms for significant words from the prompt.

Step 5: Generate support for the opposing position.

What valid reasons support the opposing position? How will you refute these ideas in your counterargument paragraph?

Step 6: Determine your rhetorical strategies and evidence.

How will you present your argument? What appeals can you use? What evidence fits the rhetorical strategies?

Ethos (appeal to ethics and morals):

Logos (appeal to reason, logic, and intellect):

Pathos (appeal to emotion and sympathy):

Step 7: Establish your organization.

Paragraph 1: Introduction

- Introduce the topic and central issues/concerns.
- Address your audience directly.
- State your thesis clearly at end of paragraph.

Paragraph 2: Counter-argument

- State the opposing position.
- Present evidence/support/claims for position.
- End by refuting the opposing position.

Body Paragraphs: Argument and Evidence

- Determine your main reasons. (These should be the topic sentences of your body paragraphs.)
- Include two or three pieces of evidence in each body paragraph. Be specific!
- Appeal to logic, morals, and emotion.
- Create transitions between paragraphs. (Consider how the reasons are related.)

Final Paragraph: Conclusion

- Reconnect with your audience.
- Leave them with a *call to action*. (Now that you have presented your argument, what do you want them to do?)