Eco-Avengers Persuasive Essay

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By now, you have been assigned your eco-avengers mission. After researching information

specific to your topic and looking for arguments to support change, you will now explore

a call to action (solution) in order to make our community / world a better place.

Then, you will write your paper, which will be published on a website for viewers.

**Steps:**

* Gather research on your topic (arguments, possible solutions, impact, effects)
* Track useful research / information on notecards
* Put citations of sources on a works cited page using Noodle Tools
* Determine your thesis (what you want to prove): should be clear, direct, and specific based on your eco-avengers topic. This is a working thesis statement until you turn in your final draft of your persuasive essay
* Compose your persuasive essay, which will include a call to action paragraph (the most important part of your writing)
* To determine your call to action, evaluate the possible solutions to helping fix your environmental problem and determine which call to action has the most viable, cost-effective, and do-able solution and include this as a separate paragraph
* Add your works cited (from noodle tools) to the end of your essay

**Step One: RESEARCH**

As you gather research, you will take notes on information that is especially specific and relevant to your topic. To do this, you will use notecards. On one side of the notecard will be citation information and on the other, your notes (direct quotes/paraphrased information) about that source. Give each source a number to help you keep track of your sources.

#1

“Waste Prevention.” US Environmental Protection Agency. 21 May 2013. 28 March 2014.

“Businesses can often modify their current practices to reduce the amounts of waste generated by changing the design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials or products. Sample goals:

Reducing office paper waste ,Improving product design to use less materials. Redesigning packaging to eliminate excess material while maintaining strength. Working with customers to design and implement a packaging return program. Switching to reusable transport containers. Purchasing products in bulk.”

**BOOK:** **WEBSITE: Paraphrase:** Summarizing evidence into

Author “Title of Webpage” your own words, but still giving credit to

Title Organization / Sponsor the author. No quotation marks used.

Copyright Last Updated/Copyright **Direct Quote:** Taking information from

Publisher Date You Accessed source word for word from a source.

Publishing City/State Author (if provided) Quotation marks used.

You will then put the source information in Noodle Tools (<http://www.noodletools.com/>). Everyone at VMS has a Noodle Tools account. All sources, including pictures, need to be documented in Noodle Tools and then printed in MLA format. Since you can save and come back to this site, your information can be collected over a long period of time.

**Step TWO: Writing your Thesis and Drafting your ESSAY**

**Thesis writing:** The thesis statement is direct, specific, and calls for the reader to do something for change. It must be opinionated, and as a result, arguable. Let’s say you are assigned the mission statement: **Help prevent waste through recycling.** Your thesis should state why we should prevent waste and how recycling will benefit our society. See how this thesis develops:

Mission: Help prevent waste through recycling.

Recycling is important for our society.

If waste was recycled, our world would be a better place and natural resources protected.

As a result of our natural resources being depleted, every citizen should have an increased responsibility of recycling through a pay-as-you-throw program, so our economy and environment for the betterment of society.

**Format of Essay:**

**Par. #1: Introduction** **Paragraphs 2+: Body Paragraphs**

**Topic Sentence:** argument supporting thesis: how your topic is affecting the world, causes of the environmental problem, or why we should care

**Explain Topic Sentence:** details about TS

**Lead-in to Evidence**: “According to…”

**Evidence:** direct quote or paraphrase research

**Reflection of Evidence:** your interpretation of the evidence & how it helps prove your argument

**Clincher:** pulls paragraph together

HOOK

Define topic, establish issue, give background info

Thesis

This paragraph first hooks your reader, These two paragraphs tell the reader why your

then introduces your reader to your topic is important. The focus should be on the

topic, provides background information, impact your topic is having on our world

and clearly states your position on the topic including its effects and why this issue needs to

(what needs to happen in order to improve be addressed. This argument is supported by

 the environment). research, which is cited appropriately.

**Par. #4: Call to Action Par. #5: Conclusion**

**Call to Action:** Clearly state what needs to happen (call to action) in order for the problem to be eradicated, minimized, etc.

**Explain Your Call to Action in Detail:** how are you going to make this happen? How much will it cost? Will it work? What does your call to action entail: who does it involve?

**How you know it will work?** Have other places tried this? [insert evidence] How will it help?

**Clincher:** Pull the paragraph together

Restate Thesis

Review Main Points, Reminder of CTA

Final Statements to Reader, Urging the reader to act, and ending with a powerful, prophetic statement

This paragraph will be much longer because this This paragraph is the “finale” of your persuasive

explains the “WHAT CAN WE DO” to help your essay. It provides a recap (summary) of your

environmental issue. Be specific, add lots of thesis (but in different words) as well as the

details, and give evidence as to how you know major arguments. Finally, you end by pleading

it can work. the reader to ACT and DO SOMETHING!

**SOURCES PAGE**: The last page of your essay is the source page. It includes the sources you cited (works cited) and the sources you read that made you a better researcher (bibliography). These sources should be separated under the headings of “Works Cited” and “Bibliography”.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

* Research Notecards Required: 40+ = A, 39-36 = B, 35-32 = C, 31-30 =D
* Writing requirements for website are listed on the next page
* No personal pronouns like “I”, “you”, “I believe”, or “I think”
* All group members must have a different call to action – please communicate appropriately
* Focus on using strong, persuasive language
* Appeal to your reader’s sense of emotion and logic
* Although this a research-type essay, your “voice” really needs to come through
* Your website will be graded on content, grammar/conventions, overall persuasiveness, visual presentation, organization, word choice, and voice.

**ECO-AVENGER**

**WRITING REQUIREMENTS**

**FOR WEBSITE**

**\*Minimum requirements\***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1 Person Group** | **2 Person Group** | **3 Person Group** |
| Brief intro to topic (background information, definition, history of topic) with thesis at end | Intro to topic (background information, definition, history of topic) with thesis at end | Intro to topic (background information, definition, history of topic) with thesis at end |
| 1 Argument Paragraph:Cause and/or Impact | Cause of topic | Cause of topic |
| Call to Action | 2 Argument Paragraphs: Impact/effects of topic on environment and people (Why we should care) | 3 Argument Paragraphs: Impact/effects of topic on people (society) & environment--land, water, air(Why we should care) |
| Finale (conclusion): Summary of main points and a plea to your reader/website visitor to DO SOMETHING (appeal to their logic & emotion) | 2 Calls to Action (each member will have their own call to action tab) | 3 Calls to Action (each member will have their own call to action tab) |
| Works Cited (minimum of 5 sources) | Finale (conclusion): Summary of main points and a plea to your reader/website visitor to DO SOMETHING (appeal to their logic & emotion) | Finale (conclusion): Summary of main points and a plea to your reader/website visitor to DO SOMETHING (appeal to their logic & emotion) |
|  | Works Cited (both group members combine sources = minimum of 10 sources) | Works Cited (all three group members combine sources = minimum of 15 sources) |
| **\*\*Each paragraph (section) will have at least one piece of cited evidence… “According to…”** |
| \*\*Sections of the website are listed in the order in which they will be displayed on the website\*\* |