**Argumentation Sample Essays**

**English III**

**Directions:** The following essays were written by students from another English III class. Read each essay. As you read, pay attention the the writer’s strengths and weaknesses and annotate for both. Here are some items that may help guide your annotations:



**Pay special attention to the following:**

* Does the thesis/claim have a provable point?
* Is the thesis/claim proven or or does the writer switch sides?
* Does the writer recognize the counter-argument? If so, does he/she disprove that argument/appease the opposition?
* Are grammatical mistakes problematic/do they cause the reader any issues with understanding?

**Essay 1:**

Reading = Academic Success

For the past decade, kids around the United States and even the globe protest summer reading assignments. Many argue that it’s pointless and kids “scim-read” or read the night before, but summer reading comes with many benefits. By just merely reading, kids can improve their critical thinking and writing skills, along with their academic performance in school. Having a summer reading program can also teach kids positive character traits, like responsibility and patience. By not reading over the summer kids can lose up to one month of what they had previously learned, which is a great sacrifice to make just for lazy kids. Summer reading assignments should be required for high school students, as it has many benefits to the readers and the school.

First of all, reading can advance the students literacy and academic performance. By reading over the summer, teens can excel, primarily in English, and in school. It is proven through the Dominican University Graduate school of Library and Information that “kids who attend summer reading programs show a gain in learning, as kids who don’t, suffer much of their learning lost”. Summer reading programs are not just punishment for teens, but rather a solution to many problems; such as: not having to review curriculum, teens can be academically successful, and even teach kids about important character traits. By reading over the summer, teens can also learn responsibility by taking care of work needed to be done. They can also learn patience and maturity by not reading the night before and spacing out their assignment maturely. It is very obvious that summer reading is extremely beneficial to not only students, but teachers as well.

Secondly, if high school students did not participate in summer reading programs, they can lose much of what they learned. Yes, summer is a time for fun , but it is essential that reading be done, so teens do not lose any of the curriculum they had previously learned last year. In the Secretary of Education, they found that “it is estimated that summer break will cause the average student to lose up to one month of instruction” (Cooper,1996). It is simply illogical to not require summer reading for the sake of losing a month of curriculum by repeating teachings. It would be even worse if teachers decided to continue on with the curriculum from last year, and leave students behind to fail. If students could sacrifice ten or so hours over the summer, schools would not have to lose up to a month of curriculum.

Lastly, if teens were required to read over the summer, they could discover a passion for books. By introducing teens to reading they can create a new connection with books through enjoyment. Studies show that kids who read for fun almost always out performs who do not read in schools. Reading for fun can boost a child’s academic success with the help of background knowledge, and improved understanding of texting. By discovering a love for books, constant reading can easily lead to a higher GPA, intelligence, and general knowledge over those who do not read consistently. Reading is proven to also make students and even adults better writers and critical thinkers, by improving vocabulary and critical thinking. By participating in a summer reading program, teens can find a passion for books, which would help them excel in school greatly.

Overall, the benefits of a summer reading program is too great to ignore. Books can provide a student with much needed character traits, improved critical thinking and vocabulary, and even provide a student with academic success. By not participating in a summer reading program, students lose much of the progress they had made in previous school years. It is illogical to not involve kids in a summer reading program as it does more harm than good. What is more important; a child’s temporary state of happiness, or academic success that can propel them through a lifetime?

**Essay 2:**

Summer Reading?

Summer reading? What is the purpose? I believe that summer reading is a hassle and I do not think that is should be required. A lot of students are in summer sports either within the school or out of school, and a another big problem is most students in high school will not read the book but say that they do, but also many students are not involved in sports and are not having family issues but they decide to not read and I do not think that is fair.

With being involved in a summer sport most of your time during summer is dedicated to that sport. I am involved in two sports that end and start in the summer, so there is really no time I have to read a book that is 300 plus pages. I am involved in baton which is a summer sport so during summer everyday I have practices in the morning and in the evening; and that is how my days are spent. When baton was almost over cheerleading started up and we started having three hour practices; so I would go from baton in Zion to cheerleading which is at the school back to Zion for baton. So if you are involved in sports you have little time to spend on reading.

There are probably about 5-8 students in every English class that do not read the summer reading book just because they do not want to. There are a lot of students who just sparknote the book so they can get and ‘A’ on their essay. I feel like if students do sparknote their book that they are almost cheating their way out of having to read their summer reading book. With there being too many people that just sparknote the book that we should nat have to read because so many little people actually do read their summer reading book.

Even though not reading your book during summer is what most people do I also believe that we should have to read a book. If you are involved in sports you should be able to read a smaller book that is not so long, but if you are not in sports and you are just plain too lazy to read you should still have to read the books that are usually given that are longer and need more time to actually think about what the book is saying.

Summer Reading? Should it be required? Yes and no. Summer reading is a hassle to those students that are in sports and do not have a lot of time to read a long book but if you are just too darn lazy to read you should have to read another book and have a harder quiz on it. I feel like the school should be more lenient with the people that are in sports with the books they read.

**Essay 3:**

Argumentative essay

In theory summer reading is supposed to be fun,enjoyable and an easy thing to do. It doesn't always work out that way, students are working more, some families go on vacation, or the book isn't available to them. I think if a summer reading book pertains to the lesson a teacher is teaching then by all means make the students read it, but if it doesn't there is no point to reading it.

Every year more and more students are getting jobs. If it may be to help pay for bills or have some extra money. Many of those students work long hours doing the jobs no one wants. After a long day no one wants to come home and read for another 2 hours. They want to be able to sit down relax or go out with friends not read a book that they will go over for two days in class.

It's pointless to have to read a book then go over for two days in class. Whenever i read a book I want to be able to have long deep discussions about it not tell everyone about your book then sit down and watch the same thing 6 times over. It boring frankly, if we could use the summer reading book as an introduction to a lesson then maybe id feel more prone to doing it.

I'm just saying what's the point in having having six different books for your class to read and have very minimum conversation about it when you all can read one book and base it about a lesson in the class. I personally think summer reading should not in the curriculum because there are many other things students are doing over the summer, like getting job to help pay bills, or Going to vacation and the book wasn't available to them or even they simply didn't have time to read the book. Now i understand if everyone read the same book and then talked about it because it pertained to a lesson in the class but to Only talk about 6 different books in two days now that's pointless.

**Essay 4:**

Summer reading argument

I know how it feels towards the ending of 8th grade year when year ready to leave all the childish things behind and mature into a young adult but the one thing you know befor entering high school they give you a summer reading assignment where they made the incoming freshmen have to read a book throughout the whole summer and then do some kind of activities that come with that reading book. Which i mean it is a good thing to do with the freshmen because it gets them ready and prepared to have to read a higher level book in high school during their english class and then have to do and essay or test on it. But now what really made me mad for like the last two years is that now there not only making the freshmen have to read a book there making all of the upperclassmen have to read a summer reading book as well and have to do assignments and test as well as the freshmen and the other parts that really makes me mad is that they are not letting us choose our own books but instead giving us a list of books that they give us to chose from but like me and most people i like to read my own book like for instance my freshman year they made the whole school read the Giver and then have to do some crazy test on it which i did not like and as well did not like the book because it's not my kind of genre i'm more into the horror stuff the stuff that wants to make scream and not sleep at not i want to be scared of the things under my bed not not be scared of the things under my bed also i hate it when they don't let us choose what book we can read because what if the book is not the kind of genre that you like and then the person is not going to read the book is is going to read some of the book and then just not finish it because not even half way thru the book u dont like it and it get too boring for that person so like i think that the school or who ever makes us do a summer reading book just let everybody pick there own book to read but there can be some rules like it must be school appropriate and it has to have a certain amount of pages and it must be some what around our age level i think that would make people want to read a book for the summer and have options and for the kids that don’t want to read a book just get an f or make them write and essay on why they did not read a summer reading book throughout the entire summer and i think that would make every body happy and be on the same level teacher and students and maybe principle so ya thats it so see yall next year peace im out.