



PERFORMANCE  
ASSESSMENT:

ARGUMENTATIVE  
ESSAY

Your major assignment for this unit is to write an argumentative essay. Choose one of the four options described below.

### **Option 1: Social Networking in School**

**Situation:** Your school district currently blocks all social networking sites from school computers. This includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and anything else that might be considered social networking. The block applies to all school computers and devices, even those that are brought in by students. Recently, the school board has issued a statement that they may consider changing this policy, but they want feedback from students, teachers, and community members first.

**Your Task:** Write an essay to be read at the next school board meeting, arguing to keep the block as it is, arguing to remove the block, OR proposing an alternative plan would meet the needs of both sides of the debate. To support your argument, use evidence from some of the Social Networking articles in the Article Library: <http://bit.ly/article-file>.

### **Option 2: Cell Phones in Class**

**Situation:** Currently, your school does not allow students to have cell phones in class. Students are allowed to have phones in school, but they must be turned off and put away during class.

**Your Task:** Write an essay to be shared with your principal, arguing for or against allowing cell phones in class, or proposing a plan that would solve some problem that might be caused by allowing cell phones in class. To support your argument, use evidence from some of the Cell Phones articles in the Article Library: <http://bit.ly/article-file>.



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### **Option 3: Junk Food in School**

**Situation:** Your school board has completely banned the sale of junk food in your district—this includes soda, candy, chips, or any other food that has unhealthy levels of fat or sugar. Students are still allowed to bring their own food from home, but it is no longer for sale in the cafeteria or vending machines.

**Your Task:** Write an essay to be shared with your school board, arguing for or against the sale of junk food in school, or proposing an alternative plan that would meet the needs of both sides of the debate. To support your argument, use evidence from some of the Junk Food articles in the Article Library: <http://bit.ly/article-file>.

### **Option 4: Single-Sex Education**

**Situation:** Your school board is seriously considering switching all of the schools in your district from co-ed to single-sex. In a few months, the board will conduct a vote of all district parents and teachers to get their opinion on this change.

**Your Task:** Write an essay to be printed in your local newspaper, arguing for or against the switch to single-sex schools in your district, or proposing an alternative plan that would meet the needs of both sides of the debate. To support your argument, use evidence from some of the Single-Sex Education articles in the Article Library: <http://bit.ly/article-file>.