

Voting Age Argumentative Essay – Grading Criteria for an “A” or “B”

1. Give your introduction a clear *thesis* that states your position on this issue:

Do you think the voting age in Carmel should be lowered to 16, or not? Why?

(Will it be beneficial or harmful for the voting age to be lowered to 16?)

2. Support your thesis with three fully-developed body paragraphs.

Begin each body paragraph with a topic sentence that makes a *clear claim or argument* supporting your thesis. Then, provide *convincing evidence* from the sources to support the claim/argument.

3. Address at least one opposing argument effectively somewhere in your essay—possibly in the 3rd body paragraph. Here are a couple ways to address an opposing argument:

“Opponents of ___ might argue that ___. However, this view is mistaken because...”

“Some people believe that ___. However, this belief is misguided because...”

After you bring up the opposing argument, use your own evidence and reasoning to “knock it down” or show why the opposing claim is *untrue or ineffective*.

4. Clearly cite all information and claims that you use from the six sources.

You may use either an *in-text citation* OR a *parenthetical citation*.

In-text citations (cite the source within the text of your sentence):

In an article by Lucia Montez, elementary-school principal Janette Ramirez declares, “Students nowadays know almost nothing useful.”

In his letter to the editor, Ali Farouz argues that “kindergarten is the best time to begin learning about finances.”

A news article by Mathilda Black reports that four out of five high school seniors do not know how to manage their money.

In an interview by CNN, a high-school student named Jesse Jensen states, “My Econ class has taught me more about finances than anything else in my life so far.”

Parenthetical citations (cite the source after the end of the sentence):

Elementary-school principal Janette Ramirez declares, “Students nowadays know almost nothing useful” (Montez).

One parent claims that “kindergarten is the best time to begin learning about finances” (Farouz).

A recent news article reports that four out of five high school seniors do not know how to manage their money (Black).