

## Critical Concepts 7.8A Non-Fiction Writing Lesson Plans

### Turning Graphic Organizers into Writing Responses

Each of the sample responses models turning our graphic organizers into complete paragraph responses

#### Prompt:

*After reading a nonfiction text, identify the author's overall argument and at least three specific claims. For each claim, provide the reasoning or evidence the author uses, and evaluate whether the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claim. Write a well-developed paragraph that clearly traces the argument, explains the claims, and assesses the strength of the support.*

1. Author's argument
2. Author's claim/evidence
3. Evaluation of evidence (relevance & sufficiency)

#### I Do – Teacher Model

**Text:** *Under the Influence of Music* – Tara Parker Pope

The author's argument is that energy drinks are dangerous for children and adolescents due to high caffeine and additive content. The first claim is that caffeine can cause heart problems, supported by reports of palpitations and elevated heart rates in children. This evidence is relevant, though the small number of cases limits the strength of support. The second claim is that additives disrupt sleep, as children reported insomnia and restlessness after consumption. The evidence is sufficient because it comes from multiple case studies and surveys. The third claim is that long-term consumption may lead to cardiovascular issues, supported by studies linking habitual energy drink use to elevated blood pressure. The evidence is relevant and fairly strong, providing solid support for the author's overall argument. Overall, the author presents a convincing argument, though some claims would benefit from larger studies to increase reliability.

#### We Do – Guided Practice

**Text:** *An Argument for Paying College Athletes* – Keith Reifel

The author's argument is that college athletes should be compensated for their contributions to revenue-generating sports programs. Claim 1: Athletes generate millions for universities, supported by financial reports showing program profits. The evidence is relevant and sufficient because it directly connects athlete performance to revenue. Claim 2: Scholarships do not fully cover costs of living, illustrated by examples of athletes struggling to pay for housing and food. This evidence is relevant but could be stronger if nationwide statistics were

provided. Claim 3: Compensation incentivizes athletes and recognizes their hard work, backed by surveys of athlete satisfaction and commitment. The evidence is relevant and fairly strong but somewhat anecdotal. Overall, the argument is persuasive, and most claims are well-supported, though some evidence could be expanded for broader generalization.

### You Do with Partner – Collaborative Practice

**Text:** *Advantages and Disadvantages of Advanced Technology* – Jin Sun-K Wellesley

The author's argument is that advanced technology offers benefits but also introduces significant risks that must be managed. Claim 1: Technology increases productivity, supported by examples of automation improving efficiency in manufacturing. The evidence is relevant and sufficient as it shows measurable outcomes. Claim 2: Technology can contribute to social isolation, illustrated by studies linking excessive screen time to decreased social interactions. Evidence is relevant and moderately sufficient, though the sample sizes vary. Claim 3: Technology can enhance learning, supported by case studies of online education improving student outcomes. Evidence is relevant and strong, particularly because multiple studies confirm the effect. Claim 4: Technology poses cybersecurity risks, supported by reports of frequent data breaches affecting businesses and individuals. Evidence is relevant and sufficient, showing real-world implications. Overall, the author provides a balanced argument, weighing both benefits and risks, with mostly strong evidence supporting claims.

### You Do Independently – Independent Practice

**Text:** *Energy Drinks Are Dangerous to Kids* – Associated Press

The author's argument is that energy drinks are harmful to children because they contain excessive caffeine and other additives. Claim 1: High caffeine can cause cardiovascular problems, with examples of children experiencing palpitations. The evidence is relevant, though the limited number of cases makes the support less comprehensive. Claim 2: Additives and stimulants affect behavior, supported by reports of hyperactivity and sleep disturbances in children. Evidence is sufficient, as multiple studies report similar effects. Claim 3: Long-term consumption poses health risks, supported by research linking energy drink use to elevated blood pressure and other heart conditions. Evidence is relevant and moderately strong, demonstrating potential consequences. Overall, the author provides a compelling argument, and most claims are supported by appropriate evidence, though broader studies would strengthen the overall case.