

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write an Argument Essay

Directions: Read "Are Athletes Overpaid?" Complete the scavenger hunt on page 25.
Then follow the steps below.

STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

Are athletes overpaid?

Consider what you read in the two essays, as well as your own viewpoints.
Check the box next to the point of view you will argue in your essay,
or write your own opinion in the space provided.

Yes! Athletes are overpaid.

No! Athletes are not overpaid.

STEP 2: GATHER SUPPORT FOR YOUR OPINION

Which details from the essays support your opinion? What other information supports your opinion?
List at least three supporting details on the lines below.

Here's an example: If you think athletes are overpaid, one of your supporting details might be that nurses and firefighters, who save lives, make less money than athletes.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Short phrases

Outline

Short prompt

STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

If you think athletes ARE overpaid, summarize the strongest arguments that Jesse Edelman presents in his essay. If you think athletes are NOT overpaid, summarize the strongest arguments that Mackenzie Carro presents in her essay.

STEP 4: CRAFT YOUR THESIS (CENTRAL CLAIM)

The thesis is where you tell readers what your essay is going to be about. The thesis should be a clear, strong statement of the opinion you gave in Step 1. The rest of your essay will support this thesis.

Your thesis: _____

Write These (I will GRADE)

STEP 5: WRITE YOUR HOOK

The very beginning of your essay is called the hook because it "hooks" your readers' attention. The hook should relate to the topic of your essay, but it can take many forms. It can be:

- 1. An anecdote** (a very short story): Describe your relationship to professional sports. Do you watch them? How important to you are they?
- 2. A surprising fact:** Find a fact that will raise your readers' eyebrows. Several surprising facts are included in the article. You can also do some research to find one that is not included in the article.
- 3. A rhetorical question** (a question to which you don't expect an answer): Ask your readers a question that reflects your point of view about the salaries of athletes. Here's one way you could structure your question: "Do athletes really deserve _____?"
- 4. A quote:** Find a thought-provoking quote that relates to the topic of your essay.

Choose one of the ideas above, or use your own idea, and write a hook on the lines provided.

Your hook: _____
