

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write an Argument Essay

Directions: Read "Can Fame and Fortune Make You Happy?" Complete the essay kit on page 15. Then follow the steps below.

STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

Can fame and fortune make you happy?

Consider what you read in the article, 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! Bring on the cameras.

No! It makes people nuts.

STEP 2: GATHER SUPPORT FOR YOUR OPINION

Look at what you wrote in the "Yes" and "No" columns on page 15. Which points 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 DO NOT think fame and fortune can make you happy, one of your supporting details might be: "Stars have to wonder if their 'friends' like them for who they are or for what they have."

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

If you DO think fame and fortune can make you happy, summarize the strongest arguments of those who disagree. If you DO NOT think fame and fortune can make you happy, summarize the main reasons some people think it can.

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: _____

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 a time when you watched a celebrity on TV. Describe what it would be like to be that celebrity.
- 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 fame and fortune. Here's one way you could structure your question: "*Celebrities get a lot of attention, but is all of that attention _____?*"
- 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: _____

STEP 6: SUMMARIZE THE ISSUE

Let readers know a little about the issue you will be writing about. This is not your point of view; it's a brief summary of the issue. Finish the summary of the issue of fame and fortune on the lines below.

Despite their fame and fortune, many celebrities may not be as happy as they seem. According to a recent study, true happiness _____

STEP 7: START WRITING

On the next page, you'll find guidelines for how to organize your essay.

Argument Essay Outline

Directions: Use the outline below to write your essay. You will use what you wrote on the first three pages of this activity.

1 INTRODUCTION

Open with your hook from Step 5.



Write a transition sentence that relates your hook to the question of whether fame and fortune can make you happy.



(See *Scope's* handout "Great Transitions" for some ways to link your ideas.)



Write your summary of the issue from Step 6.

2 BODY PARAGRAPH(S)

**Now write your supporting points from Step 2.
For each one, write 1-3 sentences that
provide additional details.**

You can put your supporting points and detail sentences together in one paragraph or you can split them into several paragraphs. It depends on how much you want to write about each point.

Hint! Order your supporting points from weakest to strongest. Readers will remember details that are presented last.

3 ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

Now it's time to recognize the other side of the argument.

Use what you wrote in Step 3.
Then explain why you think the opposing point of view is wrong.

4 CONCLUSION

**Write 2-3 sentences to remind your readers
of your main points.**

Finish with a strong final sentence.

*Need an idea?
Refer to your hook,
find a quote, or give
a call to action.*

5 READ AND REVISE

Use *Scope's* "Argument-Essay Checklist" to evaluate and edit what you have written.