

Lessons 11–12: End of Unit 3 Assessment: Writing an Argument Essay: Defending a Healthy Food Choice

(W.8.1, W.8.4, W.8.6, W.8.10, L.8.1, L.8.2, L.8.6)

Learning Target:



I can plan and write an argument to support a claim with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
(W.8.1)

Prompt: What is one informed action people in your community can take to make healthy and sustainable food choices?

Directions: Over the course of this module, **you have learned that the way food is grown and processed affects our health, nutrition, and the environment.** This is a complicated issue, and it is often challenging to know what priorities we should hold when making choices about the food we eat. However, as a community, we want to be able to make informed decisions so that our food supply is healthy and sustainable.

- Use what you have learned in this module to write an argument essay, explaining your opinion on the question: **“What is one informed action that people in your community can take to make healthy and sustainable food choices?”** In this assessment, you will plan and draft your essay. In your essay, explain your reasons for recommending this action, supporting your argument with relevant and sufficient evidence from credible sources.
- Use the provided planner prior to drafting your essay. Be sure to include a relevant main claim and to support your claim with reasons and evidence,

drawing on what you learned by writing your practice essay. When you have finished drafting, your piece should be a full essay that is several paragraphs long.

Sentence Stem Link:

- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ofpdyyK1pYteBpozJtFBGeT318p_mqaqbol_f0wRYA0/edit?usp=sharing

Essay Topic Reference Sheet:

- https://scsd-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/kgrant36_scsd_us/ER5HGk8TOzVMqL6SiscO4FYBZS_GjPgmrK5TNernva8JDw?e=oBf60r

Introduction:

How will you catch the reader's attention?
(Consider using facts, statistics, quotations, or anecdotes.)
Draw the reader in!

Picture this: You are making dinner for a family gathering. One of the recipes requires shallots, but the grocery stores don't sell fresh shallot. You decide to go to the community garden, knowing that you grow them there. You turn a corner and see a plot of land squared off, with your family name on a little sign. You walk up to it and pick three shallots. Then you go home. Nice and easy, right? That's the purpose of a community garden. They are small gardens, (sometimes sectioned by household) that anyone can walk up to and get fresh fruit and vegetables. Using these gardens can help create a healthy, sustainable community.

Body Paragraph #1

- What is the first reason you are offering to support your claim?
- Context: What context does the reader need to understand the evidence you are using?
- Evidence: What evidence from the texts supports this reason?
- Reasoning: What reasoning develops your point and ties it back to the claim?

Community gardens have many benefits for the environment and the community.

For now, we'll focus on the environmental aspect. Community-wide gardens are efficient and healthy ways of getting food. For one, the rainfall can be used as irrigation for the plants. (1)

If it rains enough, then you don't have to worry about paying for water from the city.

Not only that, but you can use old and/or rotten biodegradable food as compost. (1)

This not only gets rid of food that has gone bad, but it helps to grow better quality fruits and vegetables.

Really, as far as the environment goes, this seems to be a rather good bargain. And that's not even considering the social effects of these gardens.

Body Paragraph #2

- What is the second reason you are offering to support your claim?
- Context: What context does the reader need to understand the evidence you are using?
- Evidence: What evidence from the texts supports this reason?
- Reasoning: What reasoning develops your point and ties it back to the claim?

Restate: See, these gardens aren't only good for the environment. They are good for people too! Well, at least the mental aspect of people.

Evidence/Point #1: Community gardens supply a safe space where people can simply interact. They encourage social interaction and strengthen a community's values. (2)

elaboration #1: Going to these gardens can help people make friendships, get to know their neighbors, and just create a more bonded community.

Evidence/Point #2: By using these gardens, old farming techniques get preserved and passed on. (3)

elaboration #2: Some of the older techniques die out because people don't garden much. Most of the demanding work on farms is done by a machine. Having the opportunity to learn these older tips and methods encourages future skills and opportunities.

Conclude: These gardens promote social interaction and help build relationships that could last a lifetime. Some would say otherwise, though.

Body Paragraph #3/Counterargument

- Counterclaim: What counterclaim might others raise to refute your claim?
- Refute: How do you respond to this counterclaim?
- Reasoning: What reasoning supports your response?

Counterclaim Sentence Starters

- *Critics argue that...*
- *While it may be true that..., still...*
- *Other may say that... but one could argue...*
- *It may be true..., however....*
- *It is often thought...*
- *It is easy to think that... but when you look at the facts...*

Use the following sentence starters in order to incorporate counterarguments and rebuttals in your writing:

- Although...
- Even though...
- While it may be true that..., ...
- In spite of the fact that..., ...
- Some people may argue...but...
- A possible concern is...
- A common counterpoint is...
- For example, they [proponents/opponents] contend that...
- Those who believe...claim that...
- That is an understandable concern, however...
- This argument is wrong because...
- Although some people think/believe...others understand...
- The evidence, however, supports/disproves the argument that...because...

Restate: Some people would argue that people won't go to these community gardens. They would say that people wouldn't think that the gardens are necessary, that the gardens are beneficial.

Evidence/Point #1 that refutes claim: But I think they just don't know how people are. People know about the problems we have with our food, but they either can't or don't want to be inconvenienced with the task of going that extra mile to eat healthy. (4)

elaboration #1: For many Americans, getting that healthy food is a struggle. It's not that they don't want to, it's that they CAN'T get it.

Evidence/Point #2 that refutes claim: In some neighborhoods, there aren't any grocery stores in an easy-access range. There are fast-food places, there are corner stores, but there aren't any grocery stores with fresh produce. (5)

elaboration #2: Those neighborhoods aren't as uncommon as you might think. They appear in almost every city, every town. And those people can't get fresh, healthy food. Now, imagine you bring in a way for them to gain that food. All they must do is a little extra work, and they get fresh fruits and vegetables.

Conclude: Overall, you get a good deal. You get fresh food for no extra cost to you.

Conclusion Paragraph

Briefly restate your main claim from the introduction: In short, using community gardens is beneficial for many, many reasons.

Having these gardens helps improve the surrounding environment and our social life.

Many people don't have access to healthy food, so it's almost required for everyone to do their part and help each other.

Now, I have one last question before you go. What do YOU think? Will you make a difference in this issue?

My Sources

Lee, Vanessa N. "Community Gardens." *Depts.washington.edu*, depts.washington.edu/open2100/pdf/2_OpenSpaceTypes/Open_Space_Types/cgarden_typology.pdf.

Flachs, Andrew. "Food For Thought: The Social Impact of Community Gardens in the Greater Cleveland Area." *Electronic Green Journal*, 1 Jan. 2010, escholarship.org/uc/item/6bh7j4z4.

Albornoz, Sari. "Strengthening Communities through Community Gardens." *Sustainable Food Center*, 30 Sept. 2015, sustainablefoodcenter.org/latest/gardening/strengthening-communities-through-community-gardens.

"Public Views about Americans' Eating Habits." *Pew Research Center Science & Society*, Pew Research Center, 30 May 2020, www.pewresearch.org/science/2016/12/01/public-views-about-americans-eating-habits/

"Food Deserts." *Food Empowerment Project*, 2021, foodispower.org/access-health/food-deserts/

Final Draft

Picture this: You are making dinner for a family gathering. One of the recipes requires shallots, but the grocery stores don't sell fresh shallot. You decide to go to the community garden, knowing that you grow them there. You turn a corner and see a plot of land squared off, with your family name on a little sign. You walk up to it and pick three shallots. Then you go home. Nice and easy, right? That's the purpose of a community garden. They are small gardens, (sometimes sectioned by household) that anyone can walk up to and get fresh fruit and vegetables. Using these gardens can help create a healthy, sustainable community.

Community gardens have many benefits for the environment and the community. For now, we'll focus on the environmental aspect. Community-wide gardens are efficient and healthy ways of getting food. For one, the rainfall can be used as irrigation for the plants (1). If it rains enough, then you don't have to worry about paying for water from the city. Not only that, but you can use old and/or rotten biodegradable food as compost (1). This not only gets rid of food that has gone bad, but it helps to grow better quality fruits and vegetables. Really, as far as the environment goes, this seems to be a rather good bargain. And that's not even considering the social effects of these gardens.

See, these gardens aren't only good for the environment. They are good for people too! Well, at least the mental aspect of people. Community gardens supply a safe space where people can simply interact. They encourage social interaction and strengthen a community's values (2). Going to these gardens can help people make friendships, get to know their neighbors, and just create a more bonded community. By using these gardens, old farming techniques get preserved and passed on (3). Some of the older techniques die out because people don't garden much. Most of the demanding work on farms is done by a machine. Having the opportunity to learn these older tips and methods encourages future skills and opportunities. These gardens promote social interaction and help build relationships that could last a lifetime. Some would say otherwise, though.

Some people would argue that people won't go to these community gardens. They would say that people wouldn't think that the gardens are necessary, that the gardens are beneficial. But I think they just don't know how people are. People know about the problems we have with our food, but they either can't or don't want to be inconvenienced with the task of going that extra mile to eat healthy (4).

For many Americans, getting that healthy food is a struggle. It's not that they don't want to, it's that they CAN'T get it. In some neighborhoods, there aren't any grocery stores in an easy-access range. There are fast-food places, there are corner stores, but there aren't any grocery stores with fresh produce (5). Those neighborhoods aren't as uncommon as you might think. They appear in almost every city, every town. And those people can't get fresh, healthy food. Now, imagine you bring in a way for them to gain that food. All they must do is a little extra work, and they get fresh fruits and vegetables. Overall, you get a good deal. You get fresh food for no extra cost to you.

Some people would argue that people won't go to these community gardens. They would say that people wouldn't think that the gardens are necessary, that the gardens are beneficial. But I think they just don't know how people are. People know about the problems we have with our food, but they either can't or don't want to be inconvenienced with the task of going that extra mile to eat healthy (4). For many Americans, getting that healthy food is a struggle. It's not that they don't want to, it's that they CAN'T get it. In some neighborhoods, there aren't any grocery stores in an easy-access range. There are fast-food places, there are corner stores, but there aren't any grocery stores with fresh produce (5). Those neighborhoods aren't as uncommon as you might think. They appear in almost every city, every town. And those people can't get fresh, healthy food. Now, imagine you bring in a way for them to gain that food. All they have to do is a little extra work, and they get fresh fruits and vegetables. Overall, you get a good deal. You get fresh food for no extra cost to you.

In short, using community gardens is beneficial for many, many reasons. Having these gardens helps improve the surrounding environment and our social life. Many people don't have access to healthy food, so it's almost required for everyone to do their part and help each other. Now, I have one last question before you go. What do YOU think? Will you make a difference in this issue?

Lee, Vanessa N. "Community Gardens." [Depts.washington.edu/depts.washington.edu/open2100/pdf/2_OpenSpaceTypes/Open_Space_Types/cgarden_typology.pdf](https://depts.washington.edu/depts.washington.edu/open2100/pdf/2_OpenSpaceTypes/Open_Space_Types/cgarden_typology.pdf).

Flachs, Andrew. "Food For Thought: The Social Impact of Community Gardens in the Greater Cleveland Area." *Electronic Green Journal*, 1 Jan. 2010, escholarship.org/uc/item/6bh7j4z4.

Albornoz, Sari. "Strengthening Communities through Community Gardens." *Sustainable Food Center*, 30 Sept. 2015, sustainablefoodcenter.org/latest/gardening/strengthening-communities-through-community-gardens.

"Public Views about Americans' Eating Habits." *Pew Research Center Science & Society*, Pew Research Center, 30 May 2020, www.pewresearch.org/science/2016/12/01/public-views-about-americans-eating-habits/

"Food Deserts." *Food Empowerment Project*, 2021, foodispower.org/access-health/food-deserts/