Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Teen Angst: Argumentative Writing**

Being a teenager is difficult. Teens face many problems, some minor, some major, every day. What are the greatest problems facing teenagers today, and what can be done about them? Write a speech to be given to adults who may think that teens have easy lives, convincing them that teens are facing some significant issues and may need help solving these problems.

OR

Teenagers often think that their life is harder than anyone else’s life has ever been, and likewise, adults often think that their own youth was a more difficult time. What do you think? Does the current generation suffer more or from worse things than past generations have – in other words, is life for you worse than it was for your parents? Write a letter to your parent(s), explaining and justifying your opinion on which generation is or was the most challenged.

**Step 1:** Break down your prompt with an ITA.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I(Issue) | What is the issue you have to write about?  |  |
| T(Task) | What is your task or directions for writing?  |  |
| A (Audience) | Who is your audience? Who are you speaking to?  |  |

**Step 2:** What’s your argument?

**Step 3:** Why? You need at least three specific reasons to support your argument. In your body paragraphs, you’ll add extra details and persuasive appeals to these three reasons.

1.

2.

3.

**Step 4:** You need a counterargument! You have to acknowledge the other side. In an essay, this should go towards the end of your 4th paragraph, once you’re done giving all of YOUR reasons and explanations. As soon as you say your counterargument, come right back and say your opinion again.

Why could the other argument be correct? What would people say to defend the other side?

**Step 5:** What do you want your audience to do or believe? Write a statement directly to your audience and tell them. That’s your call to action.

**Step 6:** Write your essay. The final product (either typed in 12 point Times New Roman font/MLA format, or neatly handwritten in pen/MLA format) is due no later than Wednesday, March 18.

Introduction:

* Start with a hook to grab your audience’s attention. Pick one:

 Question Fact Quote Story

* Add a few sentences of details or background information.
* End with your claim statement.

Body Paragraph 1:

* Give 3-4 details and pieces of evidence from texts to support your first reason.

Body Paragraph 2:

* Give 3-4 details and pieces of evidence from texts to support your second reason.

Body Paragraph 3:

* Give 3-4 details and pieces of evidence from texts to support your third reason.
* When you’re finished with your reasons, write the counterargument.
* After you write the counterargument (1-2 sentences, tops), say that it is wrong and you are still correct.

Conclusion:

* Restate your claim (in different words).
* Add your call to action.