

8th Grade Argumentative Essay

Prompt: We are definitely living through historic times. It's doubtful that any of us will ever forget this time when there has been a shortage of everything from food to hand sanitizer to toilet paper. But another thing might also be in short supply – freedom. There are some who argue that the government is going too far during the COVID-19 crisis and suspending too many freedoms. Others argue that it's the government's duty to take drastic measures in order to protect everyone – even if those measures temporarily take away some of our Constitutional rights.

You have five articles as sources. Some offer both points of view. Others clearly take one point. It's up to you to read all five sources and to decide how you feel about this issue. Take one of these two positions:

Position #1: The United States government's first role is to protect the freedoms of its citizens, regardless of what the crisis is. Once we give away freedoms, we run the risk of never getting them back.

Position #2: While the Constitution of the United States is important, the government's first duty is to protect the lives of its people. Sometimes we have to give up freedoms for that to happen.

You can alter the wording of these positions and modify them to some extent, but you will need to be on one side or the other. Decide which side you're on and find evidence in the articles to back up your claim. Make sure to write your essay as though it was for the FSA. You will need to have a claim in your opening, supporting points that are backed up by text evidence (and the citations to the articles you're quoting), a counterclaim that acknowledges what people who disagree might say (with evidence and citations), and a strong summary to close your essay.

Today, you will plan. Use the planning sheet to put together your ideas. This is not optional. The planning sheet will be graded, so you need to complete it and turn it in. In the next class, another Word document will be provided for you to use in writing your essay. This is also not optional. Make sure you take this seriously and give this your best. It's basically your FSA writing assessment. I'll be communicating your results directly to your parents and guardians.