



10-Sentence Argument Challenge (CER Edition)



Choose one topic to argue:

- Should homework be banned in middle school?
- Should students be allowed to use phones in school?
- Should kids under 16 be allowed to have social media accounts?
- Should students be allowed to bring pets to school?

You will write a complete argument in exactly 10 sentences using Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning.

Sentence 1 — Claim: Clearly state your position in one strong sentence.

Example: Students should not be allowed to use phones in school because they are distract students from their studies.

Sentence 2 — Evidence #1: Provide your first piece of evidence from a reliable source or observation.

Example: Research from Common Sense Media shows that students check their phones an average of 100 times a day, even during class.

Sentences 3 & 4 — Reasoning #1: Explain in two sentences how this evidence supports your claim.

Example: This constant checking pulls their attention away from lessons and makes it harder for them to stay focused. When students divide their attention like this, they learn and remember far less.

Sentence 5 — Evidence #2: Offer a second piece of evidence that further strengthens your argument.

Example: Another study from the University of Texas found that even having a phone nearby—without using it—reduces a person’s ability to think clearly.

Sentences 6 & 7 — Reasoning #2: Explain in two sentences how this new evidence reinforces your claim.

Example: This means that phones don’t just interrupt learning when students use them; they weaken concentration just by being present. As a result, schoolwork becomes more challenging and students perform worse academically.

Sentences 8 & 9 — Counterargument and Rebuttal: Acknowledge one reason someone might disagree with you, then refute that point with clear reasoning or evidence.

Example: Some people argue that phones should be allowed in case of emergencies. However, schools already have systems in place to contact families quickly, so personal phones are not necessary for safety.

Sentence 10 — Conclusion: End your argument by restating your claim in a powerful way and leaving your reader with a final thought.

Example: Because phones disrupt learning and lower students’ ability to focus, schools should keep them put away so students can do their best work.

