



ELA Virtual Learning

English II

May 4, 2020



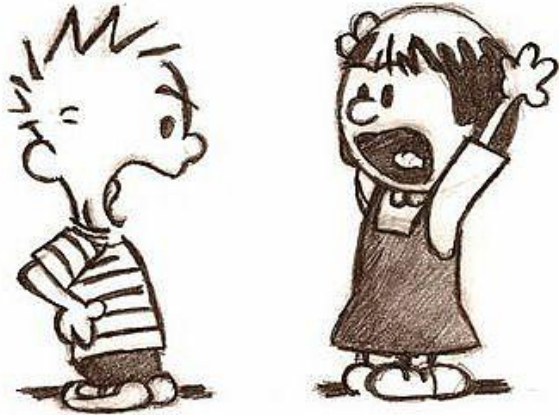
English II

Lesson: May 4, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

- I can analyze a speaker's argument, evaluating their claims, reasoning, and evidence.
- I can pose and respond to questions that clarify and challenge a speaker's argument as well as connect that argument to broader ideas.

BELL RINGER



Whether you're talking about politics, sports, or binge-worthy netflix shows, arguments are everywhere. But when you're in an argument or debate do you really listen to what the other person is saying?

Think of your last debate/argument and answer the questions below.

- **What was the debate/argument about?**
- **Why did the other person disagree with you?**
- **What specific evidence did they provide to support their claim?**
- **Ultimately, did you try to see their point-of-view? Why or why not?**

KEY TERMS

Congratulations! If you completed the bell work, you've helped demonstrate the importance of **analyzing a speaker's argument** by listening closely. Below are some helpful definitions needed for delineating an argument.

- A **claim** is a statement that takes a stance on one side of an issue. For example, *school should begin later in the morning.*
- **Reasoning** is a series specific statements that explain a speaker's stance on a claim. For instance, *school should begin later because students will be more alert and engaged.*
- **Evidence** is the concrete details, such as statistics, case studies, personal experience, and facts, that support a reason and claim. For example, *districts who have started school later have noticed a 9% increase in academic achievement.*



Breaking down an argument isn't the only way to better understand what the speaker is saying. Another necessary step is to **generate questions** that **clarify** or **challenge** aspects of an argument. But what are the right questions to ask?

Good questions that allow for deep, critical-thinking are **open-ended**, meaning they can't be answered with a simple *yes* or *no*. These types of questions require more elaboration.



BAD EXAMPLES

Do you know anything about Common Core standards?

Has the education system benefited you?

GOOD EXAMPLES

What do you know about Common Core standards?

How has the education system benefited you?



Craig Pinkney

*Criminologist,
Urban Youth
Specialist, and PhD
Researcher from
the U.K.*

Now that we have reviewed the components of an argument as well as how to generate questions, let's practice delineating a speaker's argument.

Use the information from slides 4 & 5 to analyze the claim, reasoning, and evidence found in Craig Pinkney's speech "The Real Roots of Youth Violence".

As you watch Pinkney's speech (located to the left), answer the prompt below.

- **What is Pinkney claiming about the cause of youth violence?**
- **What reasoning & evidence is provided to support this claim?**
- **How effective was Pinkney's argument? Explain.**
- **What open-ended questions would broaden this topic? List at least two**





PRACTICE ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*

- **Check your answer to make sure your response meets the following criteria:**
 - **Did you write in complete sentences and answer the questions?**
 - **Did you use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?**
 - **Did you identify a claim, evidence, and reasoning in the speech and evaluate their effectiveness?**
 - **Did you provide an in-text citation for your evidence?**
 - **Did you generate questions that broaden the ideas in the speech?**

PRACTICE ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*



Craig Pinkney is a criminologist, urban youth specialist, and PhD researcher from the U.K.

What is Pinkney claiming about the cause of youth violence? What reasoning & evidence is provided to support this claim? How effective was Pinkney’s argument? What open-ended questions would broaden this topic?

In his TED Talk “The Real Roots of Youth Violence”, Craig Pinkney posits the strongest connection between youth and violence is their lack of identity within the communities they live. Pinkney begins with a common phrase “it takes a village to raise a child” but appropriately adds “if young people don’t feel a part of that village, they will burn it down to feel its warmth”(Pinkney, 5:01). His argument has a firm stance and compelling reasoning, but lacks concrete evidence. By coupling case studies and statistics with his anecdotal evidence, Pinkney could make his argument more effective. Some questions that could broaden ideas discussed in this speech are “How can we help teenagers feel more connected to their communities?” and “why does identity have such a strong impact on our actions and decisions?”



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Delineating an Argument

- [Analyzing an Argument](#)
- [Claims, Reasons, and Evidence](#)



EXTENDED ACTIVITY

Want more practice **delineating arguments** and **broadening ideas** in speeches? Below are questions generated as examples for Craig Pinkney's TED Talk. Broaden the topic of youth violence by answering the questions below. To ensure critical-thinking and elaboration, each response should be at least three sentences.

- **What consequences, short and long term, will we see if we don't address the problem of youth violence?**
- **How can we help teenagers feel more connected to their communities?**
- **Why does identity have such a strong impact on our actions and decisions?**



REFLECTION

Today's learning targets are listed below:

1. I can analyze a speaker's argument, evaluating their claims, reasoning, and evidence.
2. I can pose and respond to questions that clarify and challenge a speaker's argument as well as connect that argument to broader ideas.

On a scale of 1-5, how confident do you feel with each of today's learning targets?
What did you struggle on? What did you understand the best?

1 = I still need to work on it
5 = I know I've mastered it!