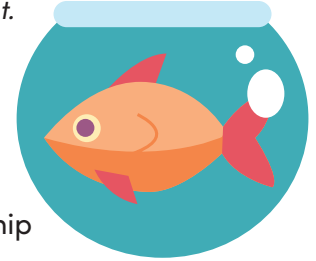


Argument Writing: Removing Irrelevant Evidence

For strong argument writing, it's important to select evidence that is directly related to your claim. Information that is extra or that doesn't relate directly to the claim can distract the reader from the main point.

Each argument below has one sentence that is not relevant to the claim. Cross out that sentence to strengthen the argument.



1. Having a pet is a rewarding experience. For example, dogs offer companionship and opportunities for physical exercise. Hamsters' silly antics make people laugh, and watching fish or petting a cat can be relaxing. Some parrots can live for over 100 years. Caring for a pet teaches the value of responsibility. Furthermore, taking care of a pet enables the owner to experience love, loyalty, and affection. For all these reasons, taking care of a pet is truly a worthwhile adventure.

2. More teachers should use video games as part of their instruction. Although some people believe video games are a source of mindless entertainment, playing video games can actually help your brain by improving hand-eye coordination and problem-solving skills. Including video games in lessons would also get students more excited about learning. Popular game genres include action-adventure, role-playing, and racing games. Finally, there are lots of video games that include academic content and give immediate feedback to students. This is why video games should be encouraged in the classroom.

3. Every neighborhood should have a farmers market so that people can buy fresh, delicious, healthy produce. Since food loses flavor and nutrients over time, local produce is tastier and more nutritious than what you can get at grocery stores. Some produce in grocery stores is stored for weeks or even months before being sold. In contrast, local farmers can sell you fruits and vegetables that were picked fresh from the field that morning. Farmers markets also support the local economy by keeping money in the community. If you want the freshest, best-tasting produce, try to establish a farmers market in your town.

Argument Writing: Removing Irrelevant Evidence

Each argument below has one sentence that is not relevant to the claim. Cross out that sentence to strengthen the argument.

4. Sleep is more important than most of us realize. Studies have shown that getting enough sleep helps us pay attention, learn and remember things more easily, and generally feel better as we go through our day. There is some debate over whether soft or firm pillows lead to the best sleep. Consistent, high-quality sleep is crucial for our bodies to heal and repair from our daily activities. Even though it might seem fun to stay up late, we usually pay for it the next day by feeling tired and cranky. The better we sleep, the better prepared we are to take on each day!

5. Reading a printed book is better for you than reading a book on an e-reader. First, reading printed books is better for your eye health than reading books on e-readers. Looking at screens for too long can cause eye fatigue, blurred vision, and eye irritation. Since reading is so important, most people learn to read when they are very young. Reading printed books can also help you feel more relaxed and get better sleep than reading books on an e-reader can. Finally, studies have shown that people remember more of what they read when looking at printed pages, helping them learn more. For all of these reasons, printed books are the superior choice for reading.

6. Tropical rain forests need to be protected because they play an important role in supporting life on Earth. Not only are they home to thousands of different species of plants and animals, they also produce much of the world's oxygen and remove carbon dioxide from our atmosphere. Trees in the rain forest also provide an important source of fresh water for the planet by drawing water from the forest floor and releasing it back into the atmosphere. This creates rain, which feeds nearby rivers and lakes. Listening to the soft sounds made by the falling rain is known to be very relaxing. The rain forests should be protected due to the many benefits they provide, such as fresh air and water, for the wide variety of life-forms on our planet.