

# Opinion/Argumentative Example Essays

## Grades 5-6

*Essay scores are produced for the following grade ranges: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12. Thus a fifth grade essay is compared to models for both fifth and sixth grades.*

**Prompt for Essays 1-3:** *Your teachers want to hold a career day at school. Parents and other adults will be invited to come to talk about their careers and the education and training necessary for them. Do you agree that a career day would be helpful?*

### Opinion/Argumentative Essay 1: Should We Hold a Career Day?

Yes. I think a career day would be fun because kids could choose if they liked that job or not.

They could see if they wanted that job when they were older enough to have a job and see if it was open and if the job was open then they would see if they wanted it or not and if they wanted it they would take it and have a job to pay them until they retire and find another job if they had good grades at school.

*Annotation: The writer of this essay clearly states an opinion but needs to support the opinion with more than one reason. Each reason should be supported with examples and details.*

### Opinion/Argumentative Essay 2: Should We Hold a Career Day?

Why not? I think career day is a great idea. Kids will learn what work is like. They might also learn what career they will want. If they're lucky they might want to go to college after the experience.

Most kids wonder what people do at their work. Career day will allow them to do just that. Kids might find out that work is harder than they imagined. Maybe they'll find out it's easy. Depending on who they go with, they might find out what career they would like. This might not happen if the adult works in Mcdonalds. An example would be if someone was an astronaut, and a child went to their work. They might want to become an astronaut.

College is another matter. If someone who didn't go to college had a bad job, the kid might want to go to college. Also if someone had a good job and did go to college the child would want to go to college. The kid might also want to go to college in order to get more money.

Well, there you have it. I have given you three very good reasons why we should have Career Day. The final decision is up to you. Yes, or No?

*Annotation: This essay includes three reasons (students will learn about careers; students may find a career they want to pursue; students might be encouraged to go to college). Each reason needs more development to help the reader understand these reasons thoroughly. The essay also needs a clear organizational structure. The writer has a clear style, shown with phrases like "Why not?" and "There you have it." This style brings the reader into the essay, making it seem that the author is speaking directly to the reader.*

**Opinion/Argumentative Essay 3: Should We Hold a Career Day?**

My teachers are thinking about having a Career Day, on which students would go with someone who works in a career that interests them. I think it's a good idea. Students often wonder what people do at their work. Career day would allow students to explore different careers and actually show them what people do at different jobs.

It is important that students learn about jobs before they make decisions about what high school courses they will need to take. For example, some students will want to go to college to prepare for their chosen career, so they will have to take college prep classes. Others might want to take classes that help them learn a skill, like carpentry, so they can build houses or furniture for a living. Having a career day would help students choose the courses they take in high school to go along with what they will need in their career. For instance, most colleges require two or more years of foreign language. Students need to know that before they go to high school and sign up for other classes, instead.

Another reason it is a good idea is that we'll have fun while we are learning. Students will enjoy seeing how it is out in the real world and getting a break from school. Even more important, we'll be learning important things about work and careers. I really want to be a newspaper reporter, but I have never met one. I have only seen reporters on television, so it would really help to spend a day with one to see if what I think they do is really what they do. It would be so fun to go on a story and see how a real reporter asks questions and gets information. To make Career Day even more educational, we could have students fill out applications for the jobs they want to experience. This would be another real-world learning activity and of course would also help the people organizing the day to know who wanted to go where.

Finally, a Career Day would be good for our community. It would make people more aware of our school and of the students, that we are serious about careers and we want to prepare for our future. Does our community have the kinds of jobs we want? That's another question Career Day could answer. Our community needs to prepare for our future needs, too. If there are no jobs available, we will have to go somewhere else to live. It would also allow interested people to volunteer to help in a really easy, helpful way. I know that my parents would be happy to have a student shadow them at their jobs, and feel good, knowing they had added to their education.

I am excited about the possibilities a Career Day would offer. Although there would be a lot of work involved, it would all be worth it for students to prepare for their future and to learn in a really fun way. It would also bring our community and school together.

*Annotation: This essay shows a big improvement. The writer used details and examples to clearly explain the reasons for having a career day. The writer also included an effective introduction and conclusion. The essay could be improved even more by reworking the fourth paragraph. It introduces too many ideas, which could lead to confusion.*

**Prompt for Essays 4-6:** After reading the article about caffeine, write an essay in which you argue for or against kids having caffeine. Support your ideas with information from the text.

#### Opinion/Argumentative Essay 4: Is Caffeine Bad for Kids?

I dont think their rite and kids don't sick when they drink a soda and people drink stuff with calfine in it all the time like cofie.

Anyway kids need to do what they want and they should sell cokes at scool so kids can stay awake in class cause cokes make me stay awake cause they have calfine and also they could make our sprots better cause we would have more enрге to play so this is why.

*Annotation:* This essay lacks development of ideas. The writer needs to develop reasons to support the opinion/argument and details to support those reasons. There is no textual evidence included in the essay.

#### Opinion/Argumentative Essay 5: Is Caffeine Bad for Kids?

I think caffene should not be given to kids. It is just like taking drugs. It can do things to your heart and lungs, like make them go faster. Another thing is that caffene can make you jumpy or nervous. It can even hurt your head and your stomach. Who wants that? Also, you might get hooked on caffiene and not be able to go without it, just like drugs. For example, my mom really loves Stairbucks. If she doesn't get her coffee, she is sometimes in a bad mood. She's a grown-up, so you can imagine what this would be like for a kid.

Even though some people say that some things about caffene can be good, I think kids should not have any. Caffiene can be good because it can prevent some diseses and some people get more exercise. People can be happier, too, just like my mom after she has her coffee.

But kids are still growing. They do not need to take chemicals into their bodies, unless it is medicine from a doctor. Chemicals change your brain and that cannot be good for growing kids.

I think there should be a law that makes companies take the caffeine out of soda and another law that says people can't give kids tea or coffee with caffene. This way, kids will be safe from the bad parts about caffeine.

*Annotation:* This essay needs reasons that are clear and are supported by details. It also needs a strong organizational structure. The two reasons the writer gives (caffeine is unhealthy and kids are still growing) are not clearly defined. This leads to a rather confusing essay. Textual evidence is also missing.

#### Opinion/Argumentative Essay 6: Is Caffeine Bad for Kids?

According to the article "Caffeine for Kids?" there is an argument about whether or not kids should have caffeine. Some people think it is fine for kids. Others think it is bad. I think caffeine is all right as long as kids don't eat or drink too much of it. Sometimes caffeine is already in food, like chocoalate or coffee, and sometimes it is added, like to soda, to make it taste better. In fact, caffeine has been added to drinks for over a hundred years. Since this is true, it seems to me that caffeine cannot be too harmful to our bodies, or there would be wide-spread consequences.

Caffeine is a chemical, so it can make your body act different, including breathing faster and making your heart beat faster. However, it can also help you exercise better and can even prevent some diseases, like cancer and asthma. Did you know it can also prevent cavities? These are just a few of the many reasons eating or drinking things with caffeine can be good for you. People also like caffeine because it makes them feel happy and awake. It gives people more energy. This may be partly caused by the faster breathing and heart rate. My mom and dad always drink coffee at home for breakfast. My parents say that coffee helps them get ready for the day. When my mom is tired in the afternoon, she sometimes gets a cup of coffee to give her energy to do the things she has to do. How can that be a bad thing?

The article “Caffeine for Kids?” states that three out of every four children in the US eat or drink caffeine from the time they are born. This article said that doctors worry that kids who take in caffeine will have health problems in the future. I certainly think that if caffeine were that bad, we would know by now. Plenty of people who had caffeine when they were little have grown up just as healthy as can be. I know from personal experience that caffeine is not harmful. It is in lots of the drinks my friends and I drink, like Pepsi or Coke, which have lots of caffeine. Some of my friends even drink coffee from Starbucks, which my dad says is really strong, and they act all act perfectly normal. I live in the South, and we all drink lots of iced tea, all year round. If caffeine was so bad, I think we would be able to tell after drinking so much of it.

Too much caffeine might become a problem for some people, especially if they start to depend on it. These people have to have it or they don’t feel good. But parents are there to make sure this doesn’t happen to their kids, so there is no reason to make a law to limit caffeine. Some caffeine for kids is fine.

*Annotation: The writer of this essay has included three reasons to support the argument that some caffeine is not harmful (it can prevent cavities and prevent some disease; it supplies energy; it has been used for many, many years without terrible effects). The reasons are supported with details, examples, and evidence from the text. In addition, the author has included an introduction and a conclusion.*

*For more examples of student essays, see the Common Core State Standards Initiative site, which includes samples of actual student essays for all three writing genres and for all grades. Each essay includes helpful notes and explanations. The first set of essays is from an on-demand writing assignment. The second set shows a range of writing, usually with one or more short essays and one or more longer ones.*

*Link: <http://achievethecore.org/page/505/common-core-narrative-writing>*