

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Write an Argument Essay

**Directions:** Read "Is Miley Cyrus Out of Control?" Complete the scavenger hunt on page 23. Then follow the steps below to write an essay explaining your opinion on whether or not Miley is out of control.

## STEP 1: DECIDE WHAT YOU THINK

Is Miley Cyrus out of control? Consider what you read in each article, as well as your own viewpoints. **Check the box next to the point of view you will support in your essay. Or write your own opinion in the space provided.**

☐ Yes! She is completely off the rails.

☐ No! She's a total genius.

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 2: FIND YOUR SUPPORT

Which of the elements that you found for the scavenger hunt on page 23 support your opinion? What are other points that support your opinion? List at least three supporting details here:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## STEP 3: ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

If you think Miley is IN control, summarize the strongest arguments of those who disagree with you. Alternatively, if you think Miley is OUT of control, summarize the main reasons that some people think she is not.

---

---

---

### STEP 4: CRAFT YOUR THESIS (CENTRAL CLAIM)

The thesis is where you tell readers what your essay is going to be about. The thesis should be a clear, strong statement of the opinion you stated in Step 1. The rest of your essay should support your thesis.

**Your thesis:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### STEP 5: WRITE YOUR HOOK

The very beginning of your essay is called the hook because it "hooks" your readers' attention. The hook should relate to the topic of your essay, but it can take many forms. It can be an anecdote (a very short story), a fact, a quote, or a rhetorical question (a question to which you don't expect an answer). **Choose one of the ideas below, or use your own idea, and write a hook on the lines provided (1-3 sentences).**

1. **ANECDOTE:** Describe a time someone did something shocking to get attention.
2. **SURPRISING FACT:** Find a fact that will raise your readers' eyebrows. Several surprising facts are included in the article. You can also do some research to find one that is not included in the article.
3. **RHETORICAL QUESTION:** Ask your readers a question that reflects your point of view about Miley. One way you could structure your question is like this: "Does \_\_\_\_\_ really mean that she is \_\_\_\_\_?"

**Your hook:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### STEP 6: SUMMARIZE THE ISSUE

Let readers know a little about the issue you will be writing about. This is not your point of view; it's a very brief summary of the issue—in this case, that some people think Miley Cyrus is out of control.

**Your summary of the issue:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### STEP 7: START WRITING

Now that you have the key ingredients for your essay, you are ready to start writing. On the next page, you'll find guidelines for how to organize your ingredients, as well as hints about what else you'll need to add.

**Directions:** Follow the guidelines below to write a strong essay arguing whether Miley Cyrus is out of control. You will use what you wrote on the first two pages of this activity.

### INTRODUCTION

Open with your hook from Step 5.



Write a transition sentence that relates your hook to the question of whether Miley Cyrus is out of control. (See *Scope's* handout "Great Transitions" for some ways to link your ideas.)



Write your summary of the issue from Step 6.



Finish with your thesis from Step 4.

### BODY PARAGRAPH(S)

Here's where you write your supporting points from Step 2. For each one, write 1-3 sentences that provide additional details. You can put your supporting points and detail sentences together in one paragraph, or you can break them into several paragraphs.

It depends on how much you want to write about each point. Order your supporting points from weakest to strongest. Readers tend to remember best the details that are presented last.

### ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER SIDE

Now it's time to recognize the other side of the argument. Use what you wrote in Step 3. Then explain why you think the opposing point of view is wrong.

### CONCLUSION

Use 2-3 sentences to remind your readers of your main points.



Finish with a strong final sentence. Looking for an idea? Try referring to your hook, finding a quote, or inspiring your readers.

### READ AND REVISE

Use *Scope's* "Argument-Essay Checklist" to evaluate and edit what you have written. Make any necessary changes and write a second draft.