

NAME _____ Period _____ DUE DATE MARCH 16th, 2017
The Outsiders Argument Writing: Court Case

Writing is a key means of asserting and defending your claims. We have been working on taking a clear position in our writing and defending our position with textual support and clear reasoning. After reading, *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton you will perform the following task:

Task:

In our novel *The Outsiders*, Johnny Cade and Pony Boy find themselves in a gruesome fight in which a Soc named Bob is killed. There are two sides to an argument, and in this case, some may feel Johnny is guilty of murder, while others believe he is innocent.

Choose one of the following and write your essay arguing for or against Johnny's innocence. Write your essay from the perspective of either the prosecuting attorney or the defense attorney. You **MUST** cite specific text to strengthen your argument.

- 1.) **Defense Attorney:** As Johnny's defense attorney, you will argue for his innocence. Cite evidence from the text to support your claims. How would you convince a jury that Johnny did not commit murder?
- 2.) **Prosecuting Attorney:** As the prosecuting attorney, you will prove that Johnny is *guilty* of murder and argue **against** his innocence. Cite evidence from the text to support your claims. How would you convince a jury that Johnny should be convicted of murder?

Example of textual evidence:

"And Johnny, who was the most law-abiding of us, now carried in his back pocket a six-inch switchblade. He'd use it too if he ever got jumped again. They had scared him that much. He would kill the next person who jumped him. Nobody was ever going to beat him like that again. Not over his dead body...." (p.34)

Steps:

1. Decide which side you want to support.
2. Develop At least TWO reasons that must be included in your thesis statement.
3. Find at least 2 pieces of textual evidence (include page number) to support each of your reasons. (body paragraphs)
4. Find background information on the case (use in introduction paragraph).

Remember:

1. Who is your audience for this court case?
2. Can you use "I" and "you" in this essay? _____ Why?
3. You are an attorney, so the language is still formal.

Outsiders Argumentative Outline

I. Introduction paragraph: (3 to 4 sentences)

1. Hook statement:

2. Background information (explain what lead up to the murder):

3. Thesis Statement (at least 2 reasons) (opening argument):

II. Body Paragraph 1 (6 to 8 sentences)

A. Topic Sentence: Reason 1 (Include transition)-

1. Evidence 1 (quote from novel with page #)

1a. Explanation of **HOW** evidence supports your reason

2. Evidence 2 (quote from the novel with page #)

2a. Explanation of **HOW** evidence supports your reason

3. Concluding Sentence:

III. Body Paragraph 2 (6 to 8 sentences)

A. Topic Sentence: Reason 2 (Include transition)-

1. Evidence 1 (quote from novel with page #)

1a. Explanation of **HOW** evidence supports your reason

2. Evidence 2 (quote from the novel with page #)

2a. Explanation of **HOW** evidence supports your reason

3. Concluding Sentence:

IV. Conclusion paragraph: Closing statement (3-5 sentences)

A. Re-state your Thesis:

B. Most convincing evidence of why people should support your side

C. Call to Action (Convince the Jury):