

Transforming Talk Into Text: Argument Writing, Inquiry, and Discussion in Grades 12

Practical English
Year 4, Semester 7
Instructor: T.Kibalnikova

SAMPLE ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

Available at: <https://www.mesacc.edu/~paoih30491/ArgumentEssay7.pdf>

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ENG 101
2 July 2, 2008

School Choice – An Educational Custom Fit

Imagine if only one size of pants were sold in stores and government regulations wouldn't allow any other size to be made available to consumers. This may sound crazy but it's much like what's happening with the education of our nation's children. As Americans we enjoy a wide range of personal choice, and thankfully it includes our ability to select the pants that fit us best. But think for a moment about traditional public education. For decades the public school system has offered a one size fits all approach to educating our nation's children. As we approached the 21st century, the public school system began to show its age. More and more children began to fall behind in a rapidly changing environment marked by the introduction of personal computers and later the internet. Sensing a need for change, many people began to push for new educational models that would keep up with the times. This marked the beginning of the school choice movement. Both charter schools and school voucher programs are collectively referred to as "school choice" initiatives, in that they allow parents freedom to choose individualized education options for their children that are outside of the traditional "one size fits all" public school system. A school voucher program provides parents with certificates that are used to pay for education at a school of their choice, rather than the public school to which they are assigned. Charter schools on the other hand are publicly funded schools that have been freed from inefficient public school system rules and regulations in exchange for accountability to produce positive, measurable results. These agreed to results are set forth in each school's charter. *The ability for parents to choose an education path that is best for their children is an exciting opportunity currently revolutionizing public education.*

A characteristic of privately operated charter schools is the focus on success through measurable achievement and accountability. Imagine again the one size fits all pants store, how could they stay in business if another store offered various sizes and styles? Simple, they couldn't, not when faced with competition that provides a better choice for consumers. The traditional public school system of the past had no competition. There was no incentive to improve the quality of education they provided since there was nothing to measure it against. The school choice movement for the first time introduced an alternative to poorly performing public schools. Charter schools make a commitment, or charter, to achieve a measurable level of educational performance within a defined period of time. This concept works and has produced results in places like Chicago, where charter schools show better performance in ACT test scores, high school graduation rates, and greater numbers of students continuing on to college (Rand).

In today's digital world, effective communication is more important than ever. With the rise of social media, instant messaging, and virtual discussions, the ability to articulate ideas clearly and persuasively has become a valuable skill. This is

particularly true for students in Grade 12 who are preparing for college and future careers.

The Power of Transforming Talk Into Text

Transforming talk into text refers to the practice of converting verbal discussions into written arguments, inquiries, and discussions. This process empowers students to consolidate their thoughts, organize their ideas, and develop a coherent argument. It enables them to engage in collaborative learning, critical thinking, and effective communication.



Transforming Talk into Text--Argument Writing, Inquiry, and Discussion, Grades 6-12 (Language and Literacy Series)

by Valeria Rossi(3rd Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2408 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 176 pages

Screen Reader : Supported



Argument Writing

One key aspect of transforming talk into text is argument writing. The ability to construct a persuasive argument is crucial for academic success and beyond. In Grade 12, students are often required to write research papers, essays, and persuasive speeches, all of which demand strong argumentation skills.

Through transforming talk into text, students can refine their arguments by analyzing different perspectives, conducting research, and supporting their claims with evidence. They learn how to structure their writing, use appropriate language, and develop a compelling thesis statement. This process not only enhances their writing skills but also fosters critical thinking and promotes intellectual growth.

Inquiry-Based Learning

Inquiry-based learning is another critical component of transforming talk into text. By engaging in thoughtful questioning, students develop a deeper understanding of the topic at hand. They learn to explore different viewpoints, seek evidence, and discover new knowledge through curiosity and investigation.

Grade 12 offers a perfect opportunity for students to further develop their inquiry skills. By transforming talk into text, students can share their inquiries, pose thought-provoking questions, and engage in meaningful discussions. This process encourages them to take ownership of their learning, develop research skills, and cultivate a love for lifelong learning.

Creating a Culture of Discussion

Transforming talk into text also plays a significant role in cultivating a culture of discussion. Through written discussions, students can exchange ideas, challenge each other's thinking, and learn from diverse perspectives. This practice creates an inclusive learning environment where every voice is valued and respected.

In Grade 12, students are at an age where they have developed critical thinking abilities and can benefit greatly from peer-to-peer interactions. By encouraging students to transform their talk into text, teachers provide them with a platform to share their thoughts, defend their opinions, and engage in intellectual discourse.

The Benefits of Transforming Talk Into Text

There are numerous benefits to transforming talk into text in Grades 12:

- **Enhanced Communication Skills:** Writing promotes clarity and precision in articulating ideas.
- **Improved Critical Thinking:** Transforming talk into text requires students to analyze evidence, evaluate arguments, and develop logical reasoning.
- **Research Skills Development:** Writing provides an opportunity for students to gather information, evaluate sources, and cite references.
- **Increased Engagement:** Written discussions give all students a chance to contribute, ensuring active participation.
- **Preparation for College and Careers:** Proficiency in written communication is highly valued in college and professional settings.

Transforming talk into text is a powerful tool for enhancing argument writing, inquiry-based learning, and fostering a culture of discussion in Grade 12. By encouraging students to articulate their ideas in writing, educators empower them to become effective communicators, critical thinkers, and lifelong learners. This skill set will undoubtedly prepare them for success in college and future careers, enabling them to navigate the complexities of the digital age with confidence.



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Author Thomas McCann invites readers to rethink their approach to teaching writing by capitalizing on students' instinctive desire to talk. Drawing on extensive classroom research, he shows teachers how to craft class discussions that build students' skills of analysis, problem-solving, and argumentation as a means of improving student writing. McCann demonstrates how authentic discussions immerse learners in practices that become important when they write. Chapters feature portraits of teachers at work, including transcripts that reveal patterns of talk across a set of lessons. Interviews with the teachers and samples of student writing afford readers a deeper understanding of process. Students also report on how classroom discussions supported their effort to produce persuasive, argument-driven essays.

Book Features:

- A focus on “the thinking behind the practice,” as opposed to a collection of lesson ideas.
- Connections to important elements from the Common Core State Standards, especially arguments writing.
- Examples of students at work with examples of the writing that emerges from their discussions.
- Portraits of skilled teachers as they promote inquiry and sequence and facilitate discussions.

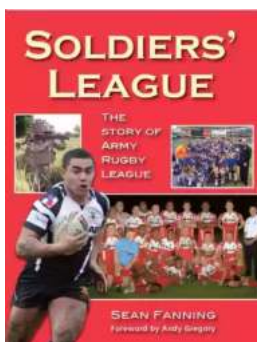
- Appendices with problem-based scenarios, interview questions for students and teachers, samples of debatable cases in the news, and more.

“In this important book, Tom McCann has given us not only the admonition to change, but the details about what effective change must be and what it looks like, evidence that it works effectively, and details about how to bring it to pass.”

—From the Foreword by George Hillocks, Jr., Professor Emeritus, Department of English, University of Chicago.

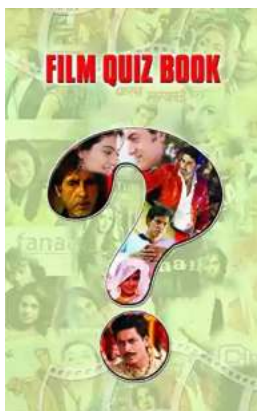
“For a professional book to have an impact on the field, it needs to address a perceived need. Writing arguments for Common Core performance assessments is a HUGE need right now that this book helps address.”

—Carol Jago, associate director, California Reading and Literature Project, UCLA.



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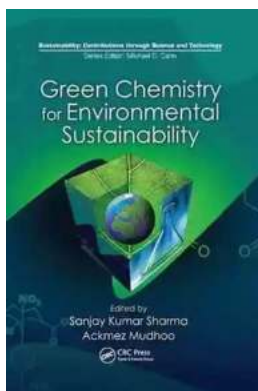
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