

Persuasive Essay Enthymeme Worksheet

Fill out the following items regarding your upcoming essay:

1. Your Chosen Topic (from the approved list):
2. Your Thesis statement in the form of an Enthymeme (see below for help):

Your enthymeme must include your stance on the topic, the word “because,” and then the main reason why you hold that stance.

*SAMPLE ENTHYMEME: For example, if your topic is steroid use in sports, and you think they should be legal, your enthymeme might be: “**Steroids should be legal in sports because steroids allow athletes to test the very limits of human abilities.**” Let’s break this enthymeme into its parts: your shared term is “steroids,” your connector word is “because,” your reason is “steroids allow athletes to test the very limits of human abilities,” and your conclusion is “steroids should be legal in sports.” Your unstated assumption is what supports the logical connection between your conclusion and reason; here it might be “One important goal of sports is to test the limits of human ability.”*

Now, break YOUR enthymeme into its parts.

3. Shared term:
4. Connector word:
5. Reason:
6. Unstated Assumption:
7. List relevant support/evidence that upholds your enthymeme’s REASON:
 - 1.
 - 2.
8. List relevant support/evidence that upholds your enthymeme’s UNSTATED ASSUMPTION:

1.

2.

9. Give a COUNTER-ARGUMENT (from an imagined critic's perspective) to your enthymeme's REASON and/or UNSTATED ASSUMPTION:

10. Your REBUTTAL to this counter-argument: