

Common Core ELA Test - Part 2: Source-Based Argument (Essay)

Step 1 = Choose a position based on the “Topic” identified in the directions.

Step 2 = Carefully read and annotate all four texts. Usually, the first two texts will be fairly balanced, while the second two texts will favor one side or the other.

Step 3 = Write your source-based argument essay, using specific examples. Establish your claim (position) in your introduction. The test instructions will inform you to use evidence from three of the four texts. Be sure to include evidence from at least this many texts or your essay can score no higher than a 3 out of 6. Also note the text and line #'s (in parentheses) after direct quotes or information included from any of the texts.

Also, you MUST “distinguish your claim from alternate or opposing claims.” (See sample outline chart on next page).

**Claims (Pro's) vs. Alternate/Opposing Claims (Con's)
INCLUDE TEXT & LINE #'s !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

List information from texts that supports your claim	List alternate or opposing claims from the texts

Possible Outline for Part 2: Source-Based Argument Essay

*Part 2 requires students to write a complete essay, so you should aim for **at least 5 paragraphs**.*

1. **Introduction**. *This paragraph should include your “claim” (in other words: the position you are arguing for, stated clearly).*
2. **Body Paragraph 1**. *Information that supports your claim (i.e., direct quotations, paraphrased information, statistics, etc.). Remember, you must use information from at least 3 of the 4 texts.*
3. **Body Paragraph 2**. *Additional information that supports your claim (i.e., direct quotations, paraphrased information, statistics, etc.). Remember, you must use information from at least 3 of the 4 texts.*
4. **Body Paragraph 3**. *Information to be used in distinguishing your claim from alternate or opposing claims.*
5. **Conclusion**.

STEP 2: ANNOTATE THE TEXTS FOR GIST & PROS & CONS

PROS (<i>Arguments FOR the topic</i>)	CONS (<i>Arguments AGAINST the topic</i>)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Video/pictures with family & friends (Source 2 & 3) 2. Can share feelings & locations (statuses) (Source 1, 2 & 3) 3. Can message and befriend people across the globe (Source 2 & 3) 4. Denounce injustice (Source 2) 5. Find new ways to volunteer & help others (Source 2) 6. Inspire/Educate people all over the world (Source 2) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cyber bullying (Source 1) 2. Waste of time (Source 1 & 3) 3. Leads to Regret (Source 1) 4. Personal Privacy Issues (Source 3) 5. Leaking of government secrets (Source 3)

STEP 3: OUTLINE

Model Essay Outline

Model Essay Thesis/Claim: Although social networking does raise concern for some, the advantages truly outweigh any potential harm it may cause.

Body #1 (Overall Reason #1: Communication)

TS/Claim: One primary advantage of Facebook is the ability one has to communicate with others.

- 3 sub reasons*
1. **Video/pictures with family & friends** (Source 2 & 3)
 2. **Can share feelings & locations (statuses)** (Source 1, 2 & 3)
 3. **Can message and befriend people across the globe** (Source 2 & 3)

Body #2 (Overall Reason #2: Opportunities to change the world)

TS/Claim: Besides communication, social media allows users to contribute to the world in progressive, positive ways.

- 3 sub reasons*
1. **Denounce injustice** (Source 2)
 2. **Find new ways to volunteer & help others** (Source 2)
 3. **Inspire/Educate people all over the world** (Source 2)

Body #3 (Rebuttal: Counter Disproved)

TS/Claim: Despite the evidence that social networking has improved our society, there are those who feel strongly that it is destructive.

- Counter SDs*
1. **Cyber bullying** (Source 1)
 2. **Waste of time OR Leads to Regret** (Source 1)

Back to Claim Sentence:

In actuality, though, there are simple solutions to these problems.

- Refuting SDs*
1. **To refute cyber bullying:** Can do **global anti-bullying campaigns** online (Source 2)
 2. **To refute waste of time** (can organize a **schedule** for using it & **research educational topics**) (Source 2 & 3)

OR

To refute leads to regret: Regrets can be **learning experience** & sometimes it's therapeutic to **"put your problems on blast" and get advice** (Source 3)

Model Conclusion

Without a doubt, though not perfect, social networking is changing society for good day by day. Not only does it offer innovative ways of communicating and opportunities for global change, but it also offers creative solutions to problems that can sometimes come out of it. So, before your next status update, tweet or video share, consider the viral impact you can make with merely a click of a button.

Restated Claim →

Summary of Body #1, 2 and 3 →

Clincher/Call to Action or Final Thought (Hook out) →