

Arguments for Wearing Face Masks

Simple and Complex arguments

ARGUMENT 1:

Everyone should wear a face-mask because they help to prevent the spread of many different diseases. If everyone wore face masks we could avoid future flu seasons and we can stop the spread of the Coronavirus. Some other benefits of wearing masks are that they hide bad breath and they are becoming a fashion accessory with many different patterns to match almost any outfit. In fact, face masks have created a whole new industry with many people involved in making masks and even marketing everything from hockey teams to super heroes.

ARGUMENT 2:

Wearing masks is one of the most important ways we can all contribute to limiting the spread of the Coronavirus. Studies have found that when masks are mandated the daily growth rate of infections drops 2% and in countries where governments required mask-wearing there was a significantly lower death rate than in countries where masks were not required. It is clear from many studies that wearing masks makes a significant difference in slowing the spread of the Coronavirus. In fact, wearing masks can help reduce the spread of a number of illness and if their use become a social norm we may be able to reduce the impact of yearly flu viruses and respiratory illnesses, protecting the health and saving the lives of the most vulnerable. So, why might some oppose the practice? To some, wearing the mask is inconvenient, while others claim that wearing a mask makes breathing too difficult. These seem like weak arguments as dealing with the inconvenience could save the lives of others and obstructing breathing is an exaggeration – in fact the American Lung Association concluded: “masks are designed to be breathed through and there is no evidence that low oxygen levels occur.” So, wear a mask and save lives.

ARGUMENT 3:

Wearing masks can help stop the spread of the Coronavirus and besides they look cool. Available in a wide variety of colours and patterns everyone can find a mask that meets their interests and fashion sense. So, you can look great and do your part to help keep each other safe. It is a win-win opportunity. Everywhere that masks were mandated the rate of infections slowed and were brought under control and where masks were not mandated, the Coronavirus spread more rapidly and led to a higher death and infection rate. Often, individuals feel they cannot make a significant difference in the world, yet adopting the practice of wearing a mask is a simple act we can all do that may save the lives of those around you. Choosing not to wear a mask because you find it inconvenient or you are afraid it does not look good on you is a very selfish and dangerous. Living in a society is part of a social contract in which we work together to share the benefits. Choosing to wear a mask is part of that social contract as we all benefit from the safety it creates. Wearing face masks is an important way we can act as responsible citizens.

How to use P.E.A.S. to create simple arguments

THINKING STRATEGY: P.E.A.S.	CRITERIA
P – Purpose E – Evidence A – Action S – Strong word or phrase	Criteria for a compelling argument: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has a clear purpose • is based on relevant and reliable evidence; • motivates people to take action; • makes effective use of language to support a claim (e.g. strong words such essential, imperative, vital...); • ensures the purpose, evidence and action support each other and do not change throughout the argument

PURPOSE (Why are you making the argument?)	EVIDENCE (What evidence supports your argument?)	ACTION (How are you hoping others will respond to your argument?)	STRONG WORD OR PHRASE (What strong word or phrase helps to strengthen your argument?)	ARGUMENT
Reduce the spread of the Coronavirus	Wearing masks slowed spread of virus by 2% per day*	Make mask wearing routine.	Wearing face mask is essential for the safety of all	If we hope to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (purpose) it is essential (strong word) that everyone wear face masks (action) as the research indicates that when masks are worn the spread of the virus is reduced by 2% per day (evidence).
Reduce the spread of the Coronavirus	Florida and Texas both opened their economies early and both saw a rapid spread of infections	Encourage a cautious approach to re-opening the economy	Extreme caution and continued vigilance matters	The struggle to contain the Coronavirus (purpose) will require that everyone remain vigilant (action) in exercising extreme (strong phrase) caution. Areas such as Texas and Florida that have not have seen a resurgence of infections (evidence).
Reduce the spread of the Coronavirus	The Coronavirus is spread through air borne droplets	When people stay at least 2 m apart they are less likely to become infected	Social distancing is important to reduce the spread	
Reduce the spread of the Coronavirus	Regular hand washing reduces infections.			

*Bolded words provide an example of the particular aspect of the P.E.A.S. structure.

Framing Simple Arguments using P.E.A.S.

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PURPOSE (Why are you making the argument?)	EVIDENCE (What evidence supports your argument?)	ACTION (How are you hoping others will respond to your argument?)	STRONG WORD OR PHRASE (What strong word or phrase helps to strengthen your argument?)	ARGUMENT
SUBJECT AREA:				
SUBJECT AREA:				
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What patterns do you notice?

What remains consistent across all disciplines?

Are there any anomalies (things that don't fit the patterns) ?

What new insights can be pulled from your answers to these questions?

Developing a Complex and Compelling Argument

Consider your insights and the supporting evidence from the various disciplines when developing your thesis and supporting arguments.

THESIS (CENTRAL ARGUMENT)	CRITERIA FOR A COMPELLING ARGUMENT:
<p>(Statement as to why the search for a cure to diabetes should be a priority in medical research)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positively impacts quality of life • Benefits people from wide geographic range • Contributes to equity • Economic benefits to society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused on a coherent meaningful purpose that promotes prospective thinking • Based on the most compelling relevant and reliable evidence from a variety of disciplines • Built on insights that consider the evidence from a variety of discipline-based perspectives • Sets out a clear general/broad action supported by a range of possible supporting actions • Makes effective use of powerful language to support the driving claim • Ensures the purpose, evidence and action support each other and do not change throughout the argument

CLAMS AND EVIDENCE	SUPPORTING ARGUMENTS	SUPPORTING ARGUMENT #1:	SUPPORTING ARGUMENT #2:	SUPPORTING ARGUMENT #3:	SUPPORTING ARGUMENT #4:

CRITERIA FOR A COMPLEX COMPELLING ARGUMENT:

Focused on a coherent meaningful purpose that promotes prospective thinking

Based on the most compelling relevant and reliable evidence from a variety of disciplines

Built on insights that consider the evidence from a variety of discipline-based perspectives

Sets out a clear general/broad action (e.g. global mandate for ...; prioritize the allocation of resources in support of...; finding a cure for diabetes etc.) supported by a range of possible supporting actions (dedicated lab space in key locations; strategic funding proposal etc.)

Makes effective use of powerful language to support the driving claim (strong words such as essential, imperative, vital...etc.)

Ensures the purpose, evidence and action support each other and do not change throughout the argument