

## **Argumentative Paragraph Analysis**

An old debate about cursive handwriting has been revived by the new core standards, which do not require the teaching of cursive. Despite the arguments against it, cursive should still be taught in elementary schools. Studies show that practicing cursive penmanship engages and develops areas of the brain that keyboarding does not. Practicing cursive handwriting teaches fine motor skills that young students need to develop. Cursive is a longstanding American tradition, and many of our country's historical documents were originally written in cursive. Furthermore, many people view beautiful cursive handwriting as an art form, and having excellent handwriting makes an excellent first impression on teachers and potential employers. While some claim that cursive is slow, that is only true for those who have never practiced it. Sadly, that is most people nowadays because elementary schools no longer have a penmanship period; it has been replaced with keyboarding. Others point out that cursive is being replaced by new keyboarding and voice technologies; even most teachers admit that they don't write in cursive for most purposes. But it is important to remember that what is fast and efficient is not always the best. The purpose of cursive is more than just efficiency. It meets many needs that technology does not, and teaching it to all students should be a priority in elementary schools.

**Attention Getter/Background Info:** An old debate about cursive handwriting has been revived by the new core standards, which do not require the teaching of cursive.

**Arguable Claim:** Despite the arguments against it, cursive should still be taught in elementary schools.

**Evidence:** Studies show that practicing cursive penmanship engages and develops areas of the brain that keyboarding does not. Practicing cursive handwriting teaches fine motor skills that young students need to develop. Cursive is a longstanding American tradition, and many of our country's historical documents were originally written in cursive. Furthermore, many people view beautiful cursive handwriting as an art form, and having excellent handwriting makes an excellent first impression on teachers and potential employers.

**Reasoning (Warrants):** NONE – *This paragraph buries us in evidence but never explains why any of that evidence supports the claim. Sometimes it may like the reasoning is self-explanatory, but writing that lacks an explanation of reasoning (warrants) is ultimately ineffective and sometimes even confusing for the reader. Don't expect your readers to naturally understand your logic. Explain it! A strategy for doing so is to answer the question "So what?" after each piece of evidence you present. Include wording from the claim in the explanation.*

**Counterclaims/Rebuttals:** While some claim that cursive is slow, that is only true for those who have never practiced it. Sadly, that is most people nowadays because elementary schools no longer have a penmanship period; it has been replaced with keyboarding. Others point out that cursive is being replaced by new keyboarding and voice technologies; even most teachers admit that they don't write in cursive for most purposes. But it is important to remember that what is fast and efficient is not always the best. The purpose of cursive is more than just efficiency.

**Conclusion/Restatement of Claim:** It meets many needs that technology does not, and teaching it to all students should be a priority in elementary schools.

## **Argumentative Paragraph Analysis**

An old debate about cursive handwriting has been revived by the new core standards, which do not require the teaching of cursive. Cursive is a form of penmanship in which the pen point seldom leaves the page, and students in American schools have traditionally learned cursive in early elementary school. There are many arguments against teaching cursive, but there are also many arguments in favor of it. Studies show that practicing cursive penmanship engages and develops areas of the brain that keyboarding does not. Since engaging and developing the brain is the purpose of education, it makes sense to keep teaching cursive to young students. The need for cursive, however, is not what it once was. Keyboarding and voice technologies have replaced the need for cursive. We take notes on iPads and write e-mail or texts instead of writing personal letters. Also, essays for school are usually typed on a computer now. Most people (especially teachers) would agree that these methods are faster and more legible than most student handwriting. Some claim that since cursive was used to write many of our historical documents like the Constitution, students need to learn it, but, honestly, all those documents have been converted to typewritten print not only for convenience but also because they were too difficult to read in cursive. As you can see, there are many pro and con arguments about cursive.

**Attention Getter/Background Info:** An old debate about cursive handwriting has been revived by the new core standards, which do not require the teaching of cursive. Cursive is a form of penmanship in which the pen point seldom leaves the page, and students in American schools have traditionally learned cursive in early elementary school. There are many arguments against teaching cursive, but there are also many arguments in favor of it.

**Arguable Claim:** NONE – *This writer is just presenting information learned from sources. No side has been chosen, and no argument is being offered. Without an arguable claim, the writing is merely informational reporting, which is sometimes called for...but not very often in this class.*

**Evidence 1:** Studies show that practicing cursive penmanship engages and develops areas of the brain that keyboarding does not.

**Evidence 2:** The need for cursive, however, is not what it once was. Keyboarding and voice technologies have replaced the need for cursive. We take notes on iPads and write e-mail or texts instead of writing personal letters. Also, essays for school are usually typed on a computer now.

**Reasoning (Warrant) 1:** Since engaging and developing the brain is the purpose of education, it makes sense to keep teaching cursive to young students.

**Reasoning (Warrant) 2:** Most people would agree that these methods are faster and more legible than most student handwriting.

**Counterclaims/Rebuttals:** Some claim that since cursive was used to write many of our historical documents like the Constitution, students need to learn it, but, honestly, all those documents have been converted to typewritten print not only for convenience but also because they were too difficult to read in cursive.

**Conclusion:** As you can see, there are many pro and con arguments about cursive.