NONFICTION | 4TH & 5TH GRADE | OPINIONS

OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS

LEXILE®

Determining Importance Name: _____ Date: _____

My Viewpoint

Directions: Write a letter to the authors of the articles. Explain your stance on the topic. Be sure to include examples, facts, and details about your thoughts, feelings, and beliefs about the topic. Be sure to include some of the following prompts in your letter:

- I respectfully disagree with you because I feel _____.
- I understand _____ is important to you. On the other hand, _____ is important to me.
- I think it was a great point when you said _____. I think _____.
- You said _____. Another point to consider is _____.

Dear Author,

I believe the Astros

held accountable

740L Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____ Date: _____

Everyone's Cheating... The Astros Just Got Caught



The 2017 Astros team at the White House with President Donald Trump, March 2018.

Yes, the Astros were caught sign-stealing. But the whole thing has been completely blown out of proportion. Stealing signs in baseball is nothing new. Literally all teams try to do it. And yes, the Astros were wrong to use electronic means to steal signs, but they certainly aren't the only team who's tried.

As a matter of fact, the team that won the World Series in 2018 after the Astros, the Red Sox, have been accused of electronic sign stealing, too! And it isn't just baseball. Earlier last year, the International Olympic Committee banned the entire country of Russian athletes from competing. This was punishment for years of performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs). The New England Patriots have been caught up in several scandals where they were accused of cheating. Even a horse who won the Triple Crown tested positive for PEDs. For some, winning is worth the risk.



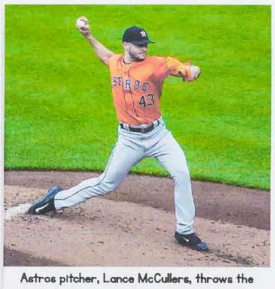
The Commissioner's Trophy is awarded to the winning team of the World Series

Let's face it. Cheating is just part of the game. If everyone's doing it, that means the playing field is already level. So, give the Astros a break. They were just trying to outsmart their opponents.

860L Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____ Date: _____

The Astros Should Be Punished

In 2017, the Houston Astros impressed the world and became World Series Champions. Two years later, their legacy is tarnished. In November of 2019, two reporters published a report that explained how the team had cheated during their World Championship Season.



Astros pitcher, Lance McCullers, throws the ball during a game from the 2017 season.

The team installed a camera in the outfield that was trained on the catcher of the opposing teams. That camera led to a video feed just outside the Astros' dugout, where team personnel would watch and decode the catchers' signs. This is known as sign-stealing, and it's against the rules. Then, the team would bang on trash cans loudly to signal to Astros hitters what type of pitch was coming. They did this all season, including during the World Series.

Major League Baseball investigated this and found that the Astros were guilty of cheating. They didn't take away their championship title but were given several major penalties. Manager A.J. Hinch and General Manager Jeff Luhnow were suspended for the 2020 season, and the Astros' owner later fired them both. The MLB also took the Astros' first and second round draft picks for 2019 and 2020 seasons. The team was further fined $5 million. While some think the punishment was harsh, others say it's not enough.

Have other teams tried to cheat the system? Probably. But the message here is clear. If you want to win, you aren't really a winner. The Astros should accept any punishment they are given.

WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS 2017

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MagiCORE

DETERMINE IMPORTANCE

4th & 5th grade

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Each story includes:

- 1 page of multiple choice and short response questions

ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS

MagiCore Learning, LLC is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	1185L-1385L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."

760L Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____ Date: _____

Eating Meat Hurts the Environment

People today are eating more meat than ever. It is delicious, but it's da

Name: _____

Immigration: ricter Laws Needed

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ncaring. That is not true.
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. We want what is best for
We also want what is best for

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follow rules. They need to fill o
ver questions. If they do not do
egal residents. They are
migrants. They cause a st
ons that we can't take car
It is also dangerous to have
e not documented. Criminals
y. Stricter immigration laws
but keep us safe.

Border patrol at sea by the U.S. Customs

740L Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____

Everyone's Cheating... Caught

at the White House with President Donald Trump, March 2018.
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aseball is nothing new. Literally all teams try to do it. A
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n the World Series
n accused of
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the entire
punishment
New
where
Triple

Commissioner's Trophy is awarded to
winning team of the World Series

Forming Opinions

An opinion is what someone thinks, feels, or believes.

Sometimes people think, feel, or believe different things about topics. This means people have opposing viewpoints.

While reading, it is important the reader is aware of the author's viewpoint. They need to be aware of the opposing side as well.

Finally, the reader should form their own opinion based on their personal thoughts, feelings, and beliefs.



Zoos are cruel to animals. The animals suffer because they are kept in small habitats, as opposed to their natural habitat. Many are forced to live in drastically different climates than they are adapted to. Many species of animals, such as monkeys are very intelligent and do not deserve this cruel treatment.



Zoos are beneficial to both animals and humans. Animals who are injured and could not survive in the wild are able to be cared for in zoos. Many zoos also have programs to breed endangered species. Humans benefit from learning about animals in zoos. People visit zoos and can experience animals up close, which makes them learn to love and care for nature.

What is your viewpoint of zoos? Back your opinion up with details about what you think, feel, or believe.

I believe zoos are beneficial to humans and animals.

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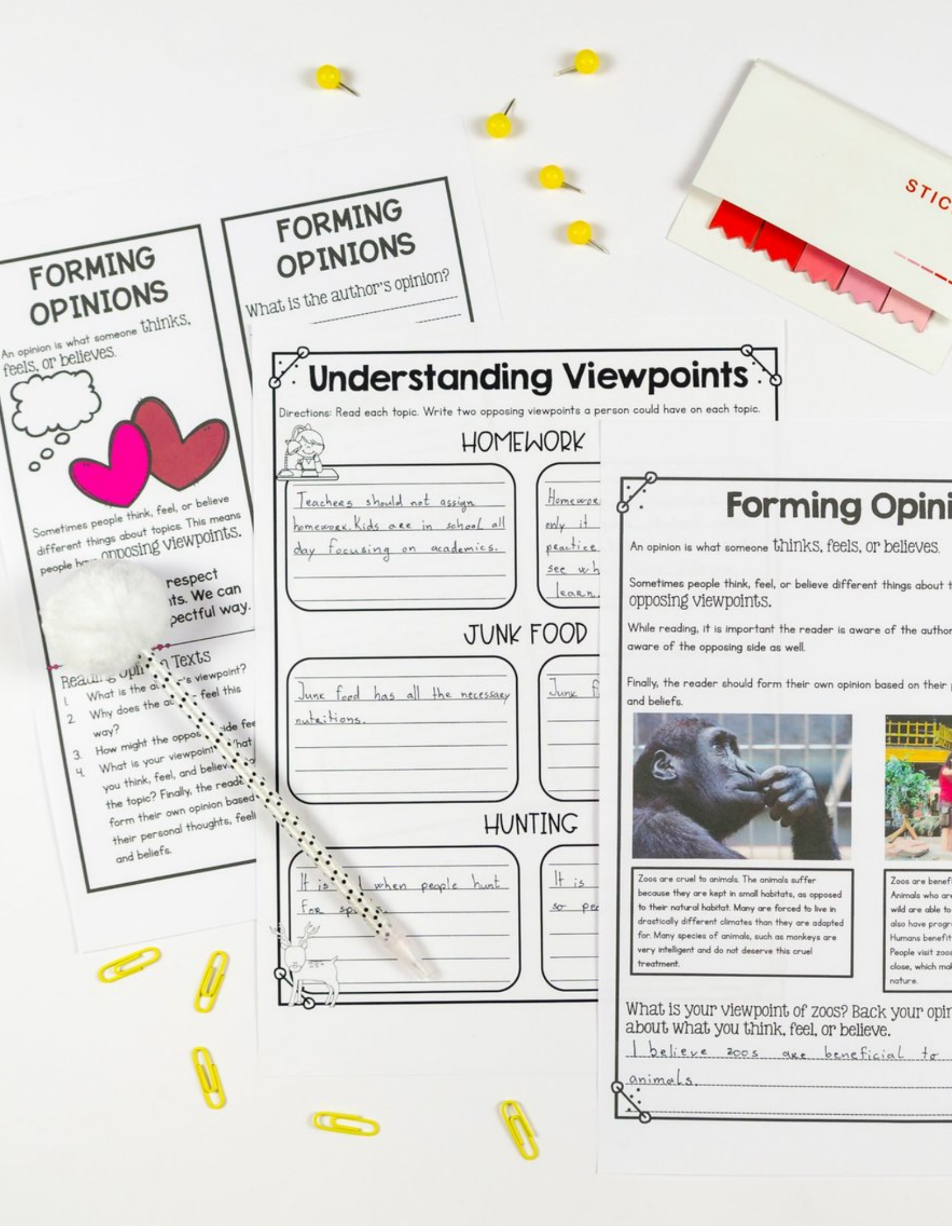
FORMING OPINIONS
An opinion is what someone thinks, feels, or believes.
Sometimes people think, feel, or believe different things about topics. This means people ha... opposing viewpoints.
respect
its. We can
pectful way.
Reading Opinion Texts
1. What is the a... 's viewpoint?
2. Why does the a... feel this way?
3. How might the oppos... ide fee
4. What is your viewpoint ... hat you think, feel, and believ... the topic? Finally, the reade... form their own opinion based their personal thoughts, feeli... and beliefs.
FORMING OPINIONS
What is the author's opinion?
Understanding Viewpoints
Directions: Read each topic. Write two opposing viewpoints a person could have on each topic.
HOMEWORK
Teachers should not assign homework. Kids are in school all day focusing on academics.
Homewor... only it ... practice ... see wh... learn...
JUNK FOOD
Junk food has all the necessary nutritions.
Junk f...
HUNTING
It is ... when people hunt for sp...
It is ... so pe...
Forming Opini...
An opinion is what someone thinks, feels, or believes.
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Zoos are cruel to animals. The animals suffer because they are kept in small habitats, as opposed to their natural habitat. Many are forced to live in drastically different climates than they are adapted for. Many species of animals, such as monkeys are very intelligent and do not deserve this cruel treatment.
Zoos are benefi... Animals who are... wild are able to... also have progr... Humans benefit... People visit zoos... close, which mak... nature.
What is your viewpoint of zoos? Back your opin... about what you think, feel, or believe.
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Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color shown.

believe about greenhouse

red

used by opponents as

orange

yellow

emissions more than

green

no more harmful than

blue

720L

Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____ Date: _____

Eating Meat is No Worse than Veggies

change. Some of these groups blame
that livestock raised for people to eat are
r from the truth.



So, before you blame meat, maybe we're asking the wrong question. Perhaps we should ask what other ways we could help the environment.

Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____ Date: _____

Eating Meat Hurts the Environment

People today are eating more meat than ever. It is delicious, but it's dangerous for environment. The animals we eat release methane gas when they digest food. This is a problem. These gasses are called greenhouse gasses. They build up in the atmosphere trap heat. This causes the average global temperature to rise over time. You may have d of global warming. This is what people mean when the se that term.



A herd of cattle

Pe can reduce methane gasses by eating meat. Livestock that are raised for huma o eat are a major cause of these gas he United Nations said that livestock c d 18 percent of global greenhouse gas sions every year. By reducing the amount meat we eat, we can help lower reenhouse gasses in the atmosphere.

Livestock farms and companies laimed that eating a vegetari more likely to raise greenho issions. That's a silly claim remain that lowering the unt at that we eat will redu ouse gasses. This will with warming. It's the righ ning to do e environment.



It's easy to swap out meat with vegetarian options.

How to Teaching Forming Opinions

Teaching students to distinguish opposing viewpoints on a topic, then to determine their own viewpoint is a critical skill. Students need to be able to look at media and understand that news, articles, and television are often swayed by the creator's thoughts, feelings, and beliefs. Students need to be able to recognize these opinions and learn to form their own opinions based on their personal experiences and values.

Topics

I strongly believe that we should not shy away from controversial, polarizing topics, including current events. Students see what is going on in the media. It is important we don't make real topics a taboo and have appropriate discussions about how people believe different things, and this is a wonderful thing.

Model

The best way to teach this skill is to provide real-life examples of opposing viewpoints. Model reading different newspaper or article clips with different viewpoints. Have classroom discussions about how students feel about these topics. Show news media clips from current events. Have a discussion about the different viewpoints displayed. While using these real-life discussions, model and show students the importance of respecting different viewpoints and disagreeing respectfully.

Here are some prompts you can use:

- I respectfully disagree with you because I feel_____.
- I understand _____ is important to you. On the other hand, _____ is important to me.
- I think it was a great point when you said _____. I think _____.
- You said _____. Another point to consider is _____.

Work as a class or in partners to complete the "Understanding Viewpoints" sheet. Allow time for students to brainstorm their own topics that are important to them and interview classmates, practicing using the prompts above.

Differentiation

- If students are struggling with this skill, you may need to revisit distinguishing fact from opinion.
- Allow more time for class discussions.
- Display photographs that show opposing viewpoints. Discuss how people feel differently about the topics.
- Use differentiated passages at individual student levels.

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930L

Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____ Date: _____

Social Media is Hurting Society

More and more people are downloading social media on their devices every day. As of 2019, 40% of the world had at least one social media account. That's 2 million more people than in 2013. Supporters of social media argue that social media makes connecting easy and helps relationships; however, opponents argue that social media makes people depressed and leads to cyberbullying. Social media is tearing up society. People on social media have an increased chance of being bullied through social media sites. Social media also puts people's personal information at risk.

Some say that social media sites strengthen relationships. However, those relationships can lead to cyberbullying and even outright dangerous interactions. Often the "relationships" formed online are not real or honest. They are based on an online personality that may or may not be real. Further, social media can cause people to compare their lives to others' lives as seen through the screen. What you see is not always what you get.



Another major concern with social media is information at risk. Three billion people use online social media. On average, we spend about two hours each day sharing, liking, tweeting, and updating on these platforms. Along with the time spent, there is a risk of hackers accessing personal information through these platforms.



Those who support social media continue to use old information; however, more recent research shows that social media is hurting society. The lack of face-to-face communication, time-wasting, and very real dangers paint social media in a negative light.

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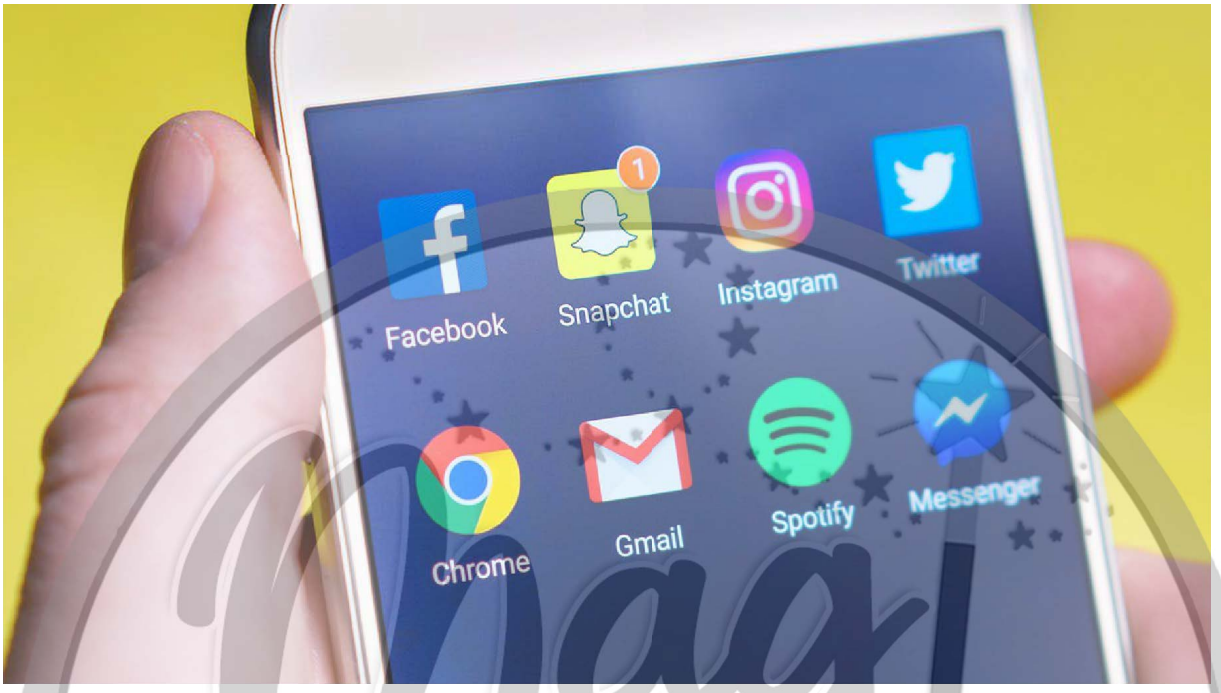
940L

Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____ Date: _____

Social Media Increases Social Interaction



Social media seems to be everywhere. Over 70% of Americans use social networking sites like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat. These sites promote increased social interaction with friends and families. They also offer access to news and other helpful information, quickly and efficiently.

Social media spreads news faster than any other medium available today. Have you heard of something going "viral"? That's because when something catches on online, it's hard to stop. This means that breaking news, safety alerts, and other important information can be quickly and widely shared on social media. Social media sites are a top news source for 46% of Americans.

Networking sites also help people connect with others. 93% of adults use Facebook to connect with family and friends. These sites make it possible for those living far apart to stay connected with one another. 81% of teens reported that social media makes them feel more connected to the people in their lives. What a valuable tool!

There's really very little to say about social media that's bad. Sure, it may waste time, but its value is undeniable. Plus, people love it! So, the next time you open your social media apps, think of all the great ways they're helping you!

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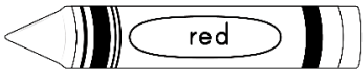
Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color shown.

1. Why did the author of "Social Media is Hurting Society" write the article?



a. To scare the audience.
b. To warn people.
c. To tell a suspenseful story.
d. To entertain the audience.

2. What does the author of "Social Media Increases Social Interaction" want you to think?



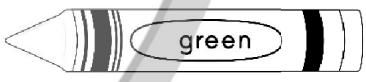
a. Social media is good for people.
b. Social media should only be allowed for adults.
c. Social media has little value.
d. Facebook is better for connecting than Snapchat.

3. Which statement from the text helps the reader understand the author's point of view?



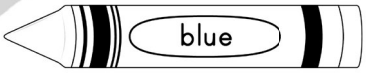
a. "Three billion people use online social media."
b. "Some say that social media sites strengthen relationships."
c. "As of 2019, 40% of the world had at least one social media account"
d. "People on social media have an increased chance of being bullied through social media sites."

4. Which of the following is NOT a fact that the author of "Social Media Increases Social Interaction" uses to support her claim that social media helps people stay connected to the world and one another?



a. "Plus, people love it!"
b. "Networking sites also help people connect with others."
c. "Social media sites are a top news source for 46% of Americans."
d. "These sites promote increased social interaction with friends and families."

5. Which author do you agree with more, and why?



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_____

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- I think it was a great point when you said _____. I think _____.
- You said _____. Another point to consider is _____.

Dear _____,

Chaz CORE

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