

Writing Lesson 12

High School Writing

Focus on Writing: Argument/Support claims using reasoning and evidence

Objective

Students will write the body of an argument including evidence supporting the argument claim.

Text Information

[Subhead] *Gandhi, Mahatma (Mohandas Karamchand)*, by A&E Television Networks

Question

Did Gandhi apply his famous quote, "Be the change you wish to see in the world," to his own life and goals?

Standard

W.(9-10, 11-12.1) Write **arguments to support claims** in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, **using valid reasoning** and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Summary

In this lesson, students will:

- Write the body of an argument essay supporting a claim
- using valid reasoning
- and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Resources

Teacher Lesson Manual	Student Anthology
	<i>Gandhi, Mahatma (Mohandas Karamchand)</i> , page 53

LESSON PLAN

Activate and Assess Relevant Knowledge (ARK)

Make connections between this new content and what students may already know:

- From previous chapters or sections (if they have been reading from the larger work)
- From general knowledge of the selection (from peers or from library bookshelves)

Provide new information as necessary to help create context and fill knowledge gaps.

(5 minutes)

Review the reading selection, *Gandhi, Mahatma (Mohandas Karamchand)*.

TELL STUDENTS: We read a biography of Gandhi, and looked at events in his life to interpret his famous quote; "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

ASK STUDENTS: To use their K-W-L charts to review the course of Gandhi's life.

Direct Instruction

Introduce the writing task using a Teacher Think Aloud.

- *Teacher explains and models the process out loud*
- *Students observe as teacher models critical attributes of the focus skill*

10 minutes)

Model for students how to use the Opinion/Argument Writing Graphic Organizer to outline the reading selection, *Gandhi, Mahatma (Mohandas Karamchand)*.

TELL STUDENTS: When you filled in the K-W-L chart, you were focused trying to identify information that would help you interpret Gandhi’s famous quote, “Be the change you wish to see in the world. Today we want to argue whether or not Gandhi’s exemplified the meaning of this quote.

TELL STUDENTS: Today we are going to write a middle or body paragraph of an argument essay. We are going to argue whether Gandhi did or did not apply his quote, “Be the change [we] want to see in the world,” to his own life. You will write a claim or thesis statement and one paragraph defending your position I’m going to model for you the steps you need to take to make a claim, and to write the first paragraph of support for that claim, using the events in Gandhi’s life to support your answer.

ASK STUDENTS: Please follow along as I do a think-aloud to show you how to approach this assignment.

I have my K-W-L notes from the previous lesson, but I’m also going to need a graphic organizer to organize my argument. (Display the GO for Opinion/Argument, pointing out the Thesis/Claim box and the Evidence from Text Box.) Since I’m only going to write my claim and the first supporting paragraph, I’m going to cross out the other boxes. I don’t have to think about those for now.

The first thing I need to do is to write my claim, position statement, or argument. My statement of claim will be, “There are many ways Gandhi applied his famous quote; ‘Be the change you wish to see in the world,’ to his own life and goals.” I am arguing that Gandhi *did* apply his famous quote to his own life.

Now I have to write the first support paragraph, defending my claim. I will use some of Gandhi’s actions to support my claim.

Events in Gandhi’s biography provide support for my position. For my thesis statement I will say: "Gandhi demonstrated, through his life and actions, how to ‘be the change’ he wanted ‘to see in the world.’”

TELL STUDENTS: I am going to refer to my K-W-L chart and look for evidence that will support my claim that Gandhi demonstrated, through his life and actions, how to ‘be the change’ he wanted ‘to see in the world.’ I will select some of the following evidence and write it in

	<p>the evidence from text box because I believe that these facts support my claim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gandhi advocated nonviolence, peace, and unity in creating an independent Indian nation. • Gandhi’s goal was to achieve freedom for India from oppressive British rule, through nonviolent civil disobedience. • Gandhi worked to repeal laws discriminating against Indians. • Despite imprisonment and violence from the English, he “never bore his oppressors any malice.” <p>TELL STUDENTS: Now I am ready to use this information I have collected on the argument graphic organizer to write my body paragraph.</p>
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<p>Guided Practice (10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Teacher guides students as they work to practice using the focus skill or tool</i> • <i>Students answer questions about the process they are using to practice the lesson objective</i> 	
<p>Using an Opinion/Argument Writing Graphic Organizer, students will construct their plan for an Opinion/Argument.</p>	<p>TELL STUDENTS: To write their claim in the Thesis box of the organizer. Remind students that the thesis is a statement of their position regarding whether or not Gandhi actually did apply his famous quote to the life he led.</p> <p>TELL STUDENTS: To Think-Pair-Share their ideas as to whether or not he lived the change he wanted to see in the world. What evidence supports their position?</p>

<p>Independent Practice (Using the focus skill) (15 minutes)</p>	
<p>Have students use their graphic organizer to write a claim and one paragraph to support their argument.</p>	<p>TELL STUDENTS: To use their graphic organizer to write a claim and one paragraph to support their argument. Remind students that argument essays are strengthened by providing direct evidence from text and to include at least three pieces of evidence to defend their position..</p>

<p>Evidence of Learning (Paragraph review using writing rubric) (5 minutes)</p>	
<p>Gandhi applied his famous quote; ‘Be the change you wish to see in the world,’ to his own life and goals. Gandhi did things in his life that made life better for many people. This way of being in the world applies to anyone who seeks to live in a way that improves conditions for others. Gandhi advocated nonviolence, peace, and unity as general guiding principles. He worked to achieve freedom from oppression through nonviolent civil disobedience. He observed spiritual principles of satyagraha (“holding on to truth”, or “soul force”) and ahimsa (nonviolence). He worked to repeal laws discriminating against any one group of people. He resisted “with love and active non-cooperation.” He practiced civil disobedience and protested the wrongs of the world without ill will or hatred.</p>	

[INSERT Opinion/Argument Writing Graphic Organizer]

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