Organizing the GED® Extended Response (Essay)

Use the worksheet as a guide to organize evidence that you will use to write your extended response (essay) to respond to the following writing prompt.

In your response, analyze both positions presented in the articles to determine which one is best supported. Use relevant and specific evidence from the articles to support your response.

Part 1

Directions: After reading the passage, answer these questions to help you to analyze it.

Evaluating the Passage

Question	Passage 1	Passage 2
1. What is the author's main argument? Use your own words to summarize the main idea.		
2. What position does the author take (for or against)?		
3. What is one piece of evidence presented to support the author's argument? What is the source of the information? Is the source reliable?		
4. What is a second piece of evidence presented to support the author's argument? What is the source of the information? Is the source reliable?		
5. What is a third piece of evidence presented to support the author's argument? What is the source of the information? Is the source reliable?		

Question	Passage 1	Passage 2
6. What are the major underlying assumptions that the author makes? Do you think they are reasonable and acceptable to most people?		

Part 2(A)

Directions: Now, we will organize evidence from the passages. First, list all the evidence that supports the main argument. Next, select the type of evidence from the drop-down menu. Lastly, select if it is valid or not.

Argumentative Essay Organizer for Supporting Evidence

Supporting Evidence	Type of Evidence	Valid Evidence (Yes or No)
	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.	Choose an item.

Part 2(B)

Directions: Now, list all the evidence that opposes the argument. Next, select the type of evidence from the drop-down menu. Lastly, select if it is valid or not.

Argumentative Essay Organizer for Opposing Evidence

Supporting Evidence	Type of Evidence	Valid Evidence (Yes or No)
	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.	Choose an item.

Part 3

Directions: State your claim (which argument is better supported). Provide three reasons and include supporting evidence with each reason. **Make sure to include evidence from both sides.**

State Your Claim
Claim (decision):
Discourants
Reason 1:
Supporting Evidence:
Reason 2:
Supporting Evidence:
Reason 3:
Supporting Evidence:

Part 4

Directions: Use the paragraph organizer below to help you practice structuring your essay. You will use your claim and supporting evidence from Part 3 of this worksheet to write your essay. Remember to include 4 to 7 sentences per paragraph.

Write Your Extended Response (Essay)

Paragraph 1: Introduction (include the main idea of your essay and your claim. You might want to write this after you complete paragraphs 2-4).

•

Paragraph 2: First piece of evidence making this position stronger (remember to include evidence from both sides).

•

Paragraph 3: Second piece of evidence making this position stronger (remember to include evidence from both sides).

•

Paragraph 4 (optional): Third piece of evidence making this position stronger.

•

Paragraph 5: Conclusion (summarize your essay)

•

Part 5(A)

Directions: Evaluate your extended response using Traits 1 and 2 of the extended response rubric in the tables below. If you answer no to any of the questions, revise your response accordingly.

Evaluate Traits 1 and 2

Trait 1: Creation of Argument and Use of Evidence	Yes or No?
Is there a clear central claim?	Choose an item.
Is sufficient evidence from the passages included?	Choose an item.
Is the validity of both arguments evaluated?	Choose an item.

Trait 2: Development of Ideas and Organizational Structure	Yes or No?
Is there a clear central claim?	Choose an item.
Is sufficient evidence from the passages included?	Choose an item.
Is the validity of both arguments evaluated?	Choose an item.

Part 5(B)

Directions: Evaluate your extended response using Trait 3 of the extended response rubric in the tables below. If you answer no to any of the questions, revise your response accordingly.

Evaluate Trait 3

Sentence Structure	Yes or No?
Are all sentences complete?	Choose an item.
Is there a variety of sentence types and lengths?	Choose an item.
Is the response easy to follow?	Choose an item.

Grammar	Yes or No?
Do all verbs agree with their subjects?	Choose an item.
Are all pronouns in the correct form?	Choose an item.
Are all sentences correctly punctuated?	Choose an item.
Are apostrophes used correctly?	Choose an item.
Are words spelled correctly?	Choose an item.
Is correct capitalization used?	Choose an item.