



Writing and Revising Interventions to Excel (WRITE) Argumentative Writing Topics

The WRITE Project has compiled a list of topics developed through conversations with Alaska educators and with our partner, the Arctic Slope Community Foundation. These topics will reflect the communities in which you teach and authentic topics those communities face. This list is meant to provide you with topics you can use in your classroom and to spark an idea for a topic.

ALASKA

Water contamination and wastewater treatment are the biggest health issues facing rural Alaska communities.

All rural communities should be required to completely dispose of garbage annually (empty the landfill) or face fines.

The laws that limit the harvesting of seals for fur to Natives are fair.

The future of the Bering Sea (or Arctic Ocean) is dependent on humans taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet.

BIA blood quantum policies are a flawed measure of nativeness.

Regulating fishing in reproductive habitat areas can help protect the crab and oyster populations.

Climate change disrupts Alaskan cultural practices and landscape features that people have depended on for generations.

Native Youth Olympic events are as rigorous or more rigorous than some Olympic events.

Rural school districts should adopt a subsistence calendar.

Iditarod race mushers who breed and train their dogs in Alaska should pay lower entry fees than out-of-state competitors.

Out-of-state workers should pay income tax to the State of Alaska.



Alaska coastal villages experiencing erosion should be required to move the village at least a mile away from the coast.

Driving four-wheelers in bird nesting areas on the tundra should be banned.
Killing polar bears anywhere should be illegal because their population is dwindling.

Iditarod mushers who breed and train their dogs in Alaska should receive incentives for doing so.

Inadequate water access is a persistent issue in rural Alaskan communities.

Adequate housing is a consistent problem in rural Alaska.

Climate change is worsening the scarcity of water in rural Alaska.

Rising sea temperatures are causing the Alaskan crab fishery to collapse.

HEALTH

Veganism may reduce the risk of some diseases.

Respond to the claim, "Get healthy, get a dog."

The National Minimum Drinking Age Act (1984) should be repealed.

Restaurants should be required to serve locally sourced produce when available.

CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Fisheries closures must be based on science.

Wind power is a clean renewable energy source and one of the most cost-effective sources of electricity.

Climate change is a hoax.

Fracking has economic and energy-security benefits with increased oil and gas production.



Fracking has environmental and social risks with increased oil and gas production.

Electric cars are a more climate-friendly option than cars powered by other sources of energy.

Electric cars sold today tend to produce significantly fewer plant-warming emissions than most cars fueled by gasoline.

TECHNOLOGY

Cell phones should be automatically disabled in moving cars.

Technology with low carbon impact does not necessarily mean low environmental or social impact.

Communication via cell phones is replacing human interaction.

Distracted driving increases the chance of a motor vehicle crash.

Electronics manufacturers should be required to come up with and adhere to a common device charging platform.

Social media is harming people and communities because people are becoming addicted to it.

Self-driving cars should not be used on public roads.

EDUCATION

Create an argument to defend the grade you think you earned (or want to receive) in the course.

The occupational certificate requirements for _____ are fair (not fair).

The most valuable workplace skill is...

Youth adds value to the workplace because...

The best way to attract more people to become teachers is...



More dual-credit programs should be offered in high school so students can earn college credit.

Alaska should merge JROTC with CTE programs.

Physical textbooks should be eliminated from high schools, and technology should be used in their place.

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