**Informal Argument**

**Sample Text Set: Should We Teach Cursive Writing?**

*Students explore the issue of cursive writing (essential, traditional or just a dinosaur?), annotating texts and layering their ideas in response to a series of texts. They form working claims and experiment with structure to write a short draft in which they use evidence from the texts to support their claims.*

**Reading #1**

[*Why Aren't Kids Being Taught Cursive in School Anymore?*](https://pjmedia.com/parenting/2016/01/23/why-arent-kids-being-taught-cursive-in-school-anymore/)provides a parent perspective through the lens of columnist Julie Prince, and is accompanied by 160 reader comments about the issue. The web article includes an embedded video featuring two Hillsdale College faculty members discussing the issue that allows students to quickly jump into two perspectives on the issue. The article notes the omission of cursive writing in the Common Core Standards as one of the failures of CCSS. PJ Media features columnists and writers who focus on politics, parenting and lifestyle.

Prince, Julie. *Why Aren't Kids Being Taught Cursive in School Anymore?* PJ Media. January 23, 2016. Web. 12 July 2016.

**Reading #2**

[Why Do Schools Still Teach Cursive Writing?](http://www.k5learning.com/blog/why-do-schools-still-teach-cursive-writing) provides quick pro-con lists

Why Do Schools Still Teach Cursive Writing? K5 Learning Blog. Web. [*http://www.k5learning.com/blog/why-do-schools-still-teach-cursive-writing*](http://www.k5learning.com/blog/why-do-schools-still-teach-cursive-writing)

Smith, Melinda, M.A.; Robinson, Lawrence; and Segal, Jeanne, Ph.D. ["Healthy Fast Food: Tips for Making Healthier Fast Food Choices."](http://www.helpguide.org/articles/healthy-eating/healthy-fast-food.htm#choices) *HelpGuide.org.* updated April 2015. Web. 8 June 2015.

**Reading #3**

*"America's Top 10 Healthiest Fast Food Restaurants” provides similar information to that of Reading #2 and can be used in lieu of it or in combination, excerpting the examples from restaurants that are not addressed in Reading #2. Both have opening remarks that could be used in concert with Reading #1 to compare/contrast information and evidence provided.*

Minkin,Tracy, and Renaud, Brittani. [“America’s Top 10 Healthiest Fast Food Restaurants.”](http://www.health.com/health/article/0,,20411588,00.html) *Health Magazine.* February 19, 2009. Web. 8 June 2015.

**Reading #4**

*“The 19 Ingredients in McDonald’s Fries” is an example of “expose-like” articles that are available from health-oriented websites.*

* **The 19 Ingredients in McDonald’s Fries – Including a Form of Silicone Found in Silly Putty** [Facebook](http://ec.tynt.com/b/rf?id=a7fR3MuDar4B-Xacwqm_6l&u=NaturalSociety)[**http://naturalsociety.com/19-ingredients-mcdonalds-fries-including-form-silicone-found-silly-putty/**](http://naturalsociety.com/19-ingredients-mcdonalds-fries-including-form-silicone-found-silly-putty/)
* **“Healthy Fast Food: Tips for Making Healthier Fast Food Choices”** [**http://www.helpguide.org/articles/healthy-eating/healthy-fast-food.htm**](http://www.helpguide.org/articles/healthy-eating/healthy-fast-food.htm)
* **America's Top 10 Healthiest Fast Food Restaurants** (<http://www.health.com/health/article/0,,20411588,00.html>)
* **A Fast Food Survival Kit** <http://choices.scholastic.com/story/fast-food-survival-kit>.
* **Your Kids Become What You Feed Them** <http://sahm.org/health-fitness/your-kids-become-what-you-feed-them-7-dangers-of-fast-food/>