Developing an Argument

Directions: Read “Toys of Terror” and “Popular Magnets Banned Forever.” Then answer the questions below to help you develop an argument. You can use your answers to write an argument essay responding to the prompt on page 13: What is the role of the Consumer Product Safety Commission? Was the CPSC right to ban Buckyballs?

1. In your essay, you will discuss what the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) does, and whether it made a good or bad decision to ban Buckyballs. Start by writing a sentence explaining the role of the CPSC in your own words.

2. Find a line in “Toys of Terror” that supports your explanation. Write it below.

3. Find a line in “Popular Magnets Banned Forever” that gives an example of what the CPSC does. Write it below.

4. Should the CPSC have banned Buckyballs? Fill in the chart with reasons from the texts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reason 1</td>
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<td>Reason 2</td>
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<td>Reason 3</td>
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An objective summary is a short statement or paragraph that tells what an article or story is about. It does not include irrelevant details or the opinions of the person writing it.

Directions: Follow the prompts in the margins to complete the summary below.

Summary of “Toys of Terror”

“Toys of Terror” is about ______________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________.
Examples include _______________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________.

In the U.S., strict safety rules help to ensure that toys do not have harmful features such as _________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

These rules are enforced by ____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
Unfortunately, unsafe toys still end up in stores because ______________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

Another reason is that toy inspectors ____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

And even when toys have safety warnings, ____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

1. Your topic sentence tells what the article is mainly about.
2. Give two examples of harmful toys and explain why they were recalled.
3. List three things that could make a toy harmful.
4. Which government agency enforces toy safety rules?
5. How many toys are manufactured each year?
6. What can’t toy inspectors always predict?
7. What can happen when little kids play with toys meant for someone older?
Paired Texts Vocabulary

Directions: Read the following definitions and example sentences. Then add two more words.

1. **counter** *(COWN-ter)*
   1. *verb*; to say or do something that challenges something another person has said or done; 2. *adjective*; opposite; 3. *noun*; a long flat surface, such as in a kitchen
   • *example 1*: The chess champ countered each of my moves, so I wasn’t surprised when she won the match.
   • *example 2*: I think cats make the best pets, but Dustin’s opinion runs counter to mine. He thinks cats are the worst.
   • *example 3*: Before making dinner, Ian laid out the ingredients on the counter.

2. **defect** *(DEE-fekt)*
   *noun*; a problem or fault that makes someone or something not perfect
   • *example*: The store sold the shirt at half price because it had a tiny defect in the stitching.

3. **detect** *(di-TEKT)*
   *verb*; to discover, perceive, or notice something
   • *example*: The new high-tech fire alarm system can detect even the tiniest amounts of smoke.

4. **manufacture** *(man-yuh-FAK-chur)*
   *verb*; to make something, often in large amounts, using machines
   • *example*: My cousin works at a factory that manufactures remote controls for televisions.

5. **prominent** *(PROM-uh-nuhnt)*
   *adjective*; 1. important and well-known; 2. easily noticed or seen
   • *example 1*: The world’s most prominent scientists were invited to the conference on how to clean up the oceans.
   • *example 2*: Cameron put her soccer trophy on the mantle; she wanted to put it in the most prominent place in the room so everyone would see it.

6. **recall** *(rih-KAWL)*
   1. *verb*; to remember something; 2. to order to return a purchased product that has a defect or problem
   • *example 1*: A smile grew on my grandmother’s face as she recalled her childhood home in Indiana.
   • *example 2*: The company had to recall the entire shipment of shampoo because it was found to be contaminated.

7. **regulation** *(reg-yuh-LAY-shunn)*
   *noun*; an official rule that says how something is to be done
   • *example*: Kayla has finished building her motorcycle, but she had to make sure it adheres to safety regulations before she takes it on the road.
8. **retailer** *(REE-tay-lur)* **noun**: a person or business that sells things directly to customers
   • *example*: Eli’s Ski Shop is the biggest retailer of winter-sports supplies in town.

9. **standard** *(STAN-durd)* 1. *noun*: a rule or model that is used to judge or measure how good something is; 2. *adjective*: usual or average
   • *example 1*: I threw away an entire batch of cookies because they didn’t meet my standards; they just weren’t chewy enough.
   • *example 2*: Sheila considered buying neon orange ballet slippers but decided to get the standard pale-pink ones instead.

10. **stringent** *(STRIN-jint)* **adjective**: very strict or severe
    • *example*: The doctor put my dad on a stringent diet that prevents him from eating bread, pasta, or anything with a lot of sugar.

11. __________________________ (________________________) __________________________
    __________________________; __________________________
    • *example: __________________________ __________________________
    __________________________; __________________________

12. __________________________ (________________________) __________________________
    __________________________; __________________________
    • *example: __________________________ __________________________
    __________________________; __________________________
**Paired Texts Vocabulary Practice**

**Directions:** Complete the sentences using a form of the vocabulary words listed in the Word Bank.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORD BANK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>counter</td>
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1. There is a giant sale going on at the mall this weekend; every _____________ is offering 20 percent off its merchandise!

2. The server had to take Monty’s order again because she couldn’t _____________ if he wanted pancakes or waffles.

3. The search-and-rescue dog _____________ the scent of the lost child and led rescuers in the right direction.

4. I still don’t know what happens at the end of *The Hunger Games* because my copy of the novel has a _____________; the last 10 pages are blank.

5. When Evan grows up, he wants to create giant robots that can help _____________ everything from cars and computers to toothbrushes and socks.

6. Jeremiah’s mom is a _____________ member of the city council; she is always being quoted in the local newspaper.

7. My brother has no more free time because his wrestling coach put him on a _____________ after-work schedule; all he does now is go to practice, drink protein shakes, and work out.

**Directions:** Write two sentences. In each, use at least one word from the list of vocabulary words on pages 1 and 2 of this activity.

8. ___________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________

9. ___________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________