

## Sample Argumentative/Persuasive Essay #1

In a world where digital products have more and more effect on people's daily lives, certain software or media products inevitably become the center of the public's attention. New social technologies become a part of an individual's lifestyle. Along with Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, which already are daily companions for millions of people, there is one more application which causes debates and conflicting assessments – Instagram. Instagram is an online mobile photo-sharing, video-sharing, and social networking service that enables its users to take pictures and videos, and share them either publicly or privately on the app. In 2014, Instagram was one of the fastest growing social network and popular with both young and old. Though opponents complain that it's pointless, Instagram is in fact a useful program and should be utilized by all so that people develop their creativity, continue to be mobile, and influence visual marketing.

Firstly, showing Instagram's creative uses, many famous photographers, whose talent is undisputed, use Instagram to share their photos taken on their phones. Such photographers as Richard Koci Hernandez (@koci), Cory Richards (@coryrichards), Michael O'Neal (@moneal), Jimmy Chin (@jimmy\_chin) are real professionals. Just for instance, Jimmy Chin and Cory Richards are photographers for National Geographic. Additionally, Chin and Richards post advice to followers to help them learn and suggest that "experimenting with angles" and "early morning light" will help their followers to express their own creativity. The number of professional photographers on Instagram is vast. Basically, this means any person possessing a smartphone can follow their accounts, and receive daily portions of high quality images. It is like a first-hand workshop, direct lessons on photography, and denying this advantage of Instagram is not reasonable.

Another big plus of Instagram is that it is mobile. In the 21st century, a smartphone is a thing almost nobody leaves at his or her home. Considering nearly every smartphone has a camera, every time one walks around the city, one has a tool to capture the most interesting and inspiring moments, and what is more important, receive momentary feedback. "Likes" are not a truly adequate assessment of an individual's creativity, but if an amateur's photos are followed by famous (or simply talented) photographers, and those professionals "like" the photos, it can be a hint that anyone can develop a creative eye.

Also, Instagram has its own advantages not only for creative people, but also for businesses. In fact, it is a great platform for what is called visual marketing, when you have an ability to introduce your products to potential customers directly (i.e. visually) in the most attractive way. One can form a whole feed of marketing images, encouraging interaction and purchasing (MaximizeSocialBusiness). In addition, promoting accounts in Instagram is not difficult, so gaining a number of followers and potential customers is not a big deal.

Some may argue that Instagram is not all about advantages, though. Instagram can be used totally ineptly. Billions of boring and similar selfies, kittens, flowers, "Converse" sneakers, and food photos have become the subject for ridicule. There are many people who post mediocre, or even bad photos, hoping to get more likes; obsession with shooting selfies has officially become a psychological disorder (CE), and the amount of people with bad taste in photography can be depressing. However, if used responsibly and with a purpose, Instagram can be a useful tool.

Regardless of its disadvantages, Instagram remains a useful and fun tool for both amateur and professional photographers. It allows common people to follow famous photographers and learn from their works. It also allows users to receive feedback about their creativity. In addition, Instagram can be an effective media platform for businesses, allowing companies to use so-called visual marketing to engage customers. As a result, visual platforms like Instagram are doing more than just generating engagement, they are also essential in driving the economy and giving the general public a voice. Many people are using Instagram to post pictures of

found artistic images like flowers, architecture, and even food; Instagram promotes creativity and adds beauty to the world.

## Sample Persuasive/Argumentative Essay #2

As teenagers, we are often stereotyped. It is true that there are many teenagers who take advantage of the freedoms society gives them-- driving and working, specifically--and abuse those freedoms. However, there are also many teenagers who desire to move beyond those misinformed assumptions and are fast becoming dependable, informed members of society. Most teenagers eagerly look forward to adulthood, take the real world seriously, and care deeply about their communities. Even though some teens can be irresponsible, the voting age should be conditionally lowered to age 16 because teens are passionate about the environment, they are concerned with social issues, and there are ways for them to prove to society that they are responsible enough to vote.

One area that teens often feel strongly about is the environment. They are appalled at the figures and statistics they read in the newspaper or hear in class about environmental issues and are uniquely qualified to vote on an issue concerning the environment because they will be the ones dealing with the consequences in the future.

In addition to concern about the environment, many teenagers are concerned with social issues. Who better than citizens enrolled in public schools to vote on school funding and budget issues? Many teens also know firsthand about crime and the consequences of understaffed police bureaus. The same logic can be applied to the welfare system, the foster care system, and labor laws. Why shouldn't teenagers be able to make decisions that will not only affect them immediately, but also have the potential to change the society that, as young people, they will be living in for longer than most people currently over the voting age?

Lastly, 16 year olds can prove they are responsible enough to vote by meeting the requirements for a driver's license and being enrolled in school. Not only should the teen be required to take driver's education, but teens could be required to take voter's education. For example, voting expert Lainey Mitchell argues that connecting voting to driving is a good idea: "teen's participation in both voting and driving could be connected to GPA; in addition, teenagers who would like the privilege to vote at 16 could be required to participate in their community: volunteering and other community service." Experts agree, teenagers who choose not to meet the additional criteria could simply wait until their 18th year to register to vote; voting at 16 should be a privilege for those teenagers responsible enough to make good decisions in all areas of their lives.

Of course, some may argue that there are many teenagers who do not act responsibly in their lives and, therefore, do not act responsibly enough to have the right to vote. However, those concerns could be subdued by the conditional lowering of the voting age to 16. The teenagers who want to vote and will use the privilege responsibly will be required to put in a little extra effort to prove their worthiness.

In conclusion, meeting a stringent set of requirements will be training for the act of voting. There would be structures in place to ensure that our citizens are "graduated" into the responsibility of voting and are responsible, trained voters by age 18. Why not let people vote when they are still in school and where part of education could be informing all teenagers of the relevant issues in society? High school is the perfect place to inform and encourage citizens to exercise their right to vote responsibly. Teenagers deserve to be given a chance with guidelines that will prove their readiness to invest in society with an informed and responsible vote.