

### Important Definitions

**Assertion:** *A statement of belief, typically claiming that something that is or is not true.*

Television violence causes violent behavior in children.  
We need a law to prevent further groundwater contamination.

**Reasoned Assertion:** *Strong assertions require reasoning, which can be achieved by adding “because”-style statements. This turns them into multi-point “claims” or “thesis” statements.*

Television violence can cause violent behavior in children because it normalizes aggression and often does so in a manner that lacks grief and pain responses.

Huntington needs laws to prevent further groundwater contamination so that the fishing community, and all those it influences, are not bankrupted.

**Absolute Assertion:** *Assertions that take one limited perspective or position.*

Teenagers are not mature enough to drive a car until they turn 17 because their brains are underdeveloped and therefore their judgment can be flawed.

**Qualified Assertion:** *Assertions that establish conditions under which a perspective is valid.*

If teens need transportation to work or school, and can demonstrate appropriate focus and responsibility, licensing them at 15 may be helpful to families who do not have the luxury of having a stay-at-home parent. However, the reality is that most teens are too easily distracted and not mature enough to make wise road decisions, so a reliable testing tool would need to be in place.

**Sentence Starters:** Only if...then...  
Though some...not all...  
Most times...but...  
While...  
This is valuable but only if...  
This is true, except when...  
This might work if...  
The reason this happens is because... but the underlying issues are...

**Evidence:** *Detailed information from a source that strengthens your argument and does not allow it to rest on opinion.*

(anecdotal observation) I saw three car accidents on 25A last summer.

(expert testimony) Local congressman Harry Cleonick explains this as...

(records) According to the latest Air and Space Reports from NASA...

(comparison) The budget process is similar in design to a family's personal credit card debt...

(authority) *The New York Times* reported that...

(data) In a 2017 survey of American professors, the Pew Research Center found that 27% of...

**Framing:** *Language that indicates the ethos of the evidence you are using to support your assertion. An academic frame includes the author's name and credentials and the genre, publication and date of the information's presentation. You only need to frame the first time you introduce a source.*

Educational psychologist Michael Landow's 2022 study published in The Journal of Higher Education provides evidence that "over 45% of students in typical classrooms have been impacted by the Opioid Crisis" in some form (Source D).

**Absolutes:** *Language that creates a complete, total or exceptionless scenario (which can be easily refuted or disproved)*

<b>AVOID...</b>	<b>Instead, try...</b>
never	rarely, infrequently, under certain conditions, in rare cases
none	few, little, rare, hardly any
no	not entirely, often
everyone	many people, the majority, the general population, typically
nobody	few, very few, traditionally
all/always	often, usually, frequently, consistently, with few exceptions, routinely, many
impossible	unlikely, improbable, doubtful
the same	similar
pointless	flawed, problematic, misconceived

(cont'd)

**Commentary:** *Language that demonstrates the connection between the evidence and your claim/assertion. Your commentary should be several sentences (2-4). It may help you to think of your evidence as an example and your commentary as the explanation of that example.*

**Sentence Starters:**

Consequently... For example...  
Therefore... Similarly...  
Thus... And in much the same way...  
Clearly,  
In fact...  
Indeed...  
And what's more...  
Latko's point is valid, particularly when we consider that...  
This begs the question...  
The point here is...  
Simply stated...  
Another way to look at this reality is...  
As [author] suggests, it is critical that...  
This reality is one that cannot be ignored...  
This finding is significant because...

**Counterclaim/Concession** *A recognition that there is a belief or opinion that exists in opposition to the position being presented.*

Admittedly, proponents of red light cameras assert that \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_. (Then see "Rebuttal/Refutation" below)

**Sentence Starters:**

Admittedly,...	I concede/acknowledge/recognize that...
Certainly,... [but...]	Many parents assume that...
Even though...	Perhaps,... [however,...]
Granted...	While it is true that...
Of course...	

**Rebuttal/Refutation** *Pointing out the flaw or weakness in an objection.*

However, these supporters fail to recognize that \_\_\_\_\_.  
However, this ideology is misguided because \_\_\_\_\_.  
And yet, despite the fact that \_\_\_\_\_, the greater social issue at stake is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Sentence Starters:**

Nevertheless...	However...
But ultimately...	Despite the fact that...
Regardless of...	

**Closing:**

*Finishing your argument with a strong comment/final urging reminding your reader why your assertion is correct. **How is your position beneficial to society? What do you want your reader to do, feel or believe after having read your argument?***

Therefore, if we want our children to live more peaceful lives, we need to limit the amount of violence to which we expose them. The first step in this important direction is eliminating their access to violent television programming.

Ultimately, citizens have the right to expect more from the elected officials who control vital resources like water. Because, like many, I am unwilling to risk my family's health and safety simply because stronger water filtration policies are unpopular among corporate leaders.

AP Language and Composition  
Latko  
Opening your Open Essay

K.

### Assertion

1. Define
2. When would you choose to use an assertion as your opening? What are its pros?
3. What are its cons?

### Anecdote

1. Define
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Person Anecdote
  - b. 3<sup>rd</sup> Person Anecdote

2. When would you choose to use an assertion as your opening? What are its pros?

3. What are its cons?