

## READING FOR THE STATE ASSESSMENT

On the end of year assessment for English Language Arts, you will be asked to read several different passages and answer questions based on those passages. The following units will review some of types of texts you will be asked to read and some of the types of questions you will be asked to answer.

### Argumentative Texts



\*Download the attached pdf to take notes during the lesson.

An **argumentative** text is a writing piece meant to persuade someone to think the way the author does.

The first and most important element in an argumentative text is the **claim**. In rhetoric and argumentation, a **claim** is an arguable statement—an idea that the author asks an audience to accept. In an argumentative text, the **claim** is the *central idea*.

The author will develop his or her claim with a series of **reasons** and **evidence**.

**Reasons** are more specific statements that support the overall claim. **Evidence** is a series facts, examples, statistics, and quotes that support the reasons and ultimately the claim.

Now that you understand how to approach a passage, read the following Argumentative Article: [Want to Get Into College? Learn to Fail](#)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Want to Get Into College? Learn to Fail**

*Students shouldn't stress perfection in college applications*

By Angel B. Pérez  
2012

*Many students experience intense pressure to be perfect in school, especially to ensure that they are accepted to a top university. But how important is a perfect college application? In this informational article, a dean of admissions discusses what colleges are really looking for and offers his surprising take on the importance of failure. As you read, take notes on the reasons why the author thinks students should be honest about their failures on college applications.*

- [1] I ask every student I interview for admission to my institution, Pitzer College, the same question, "What do you look forward to the most in college?" I was stunned and delighted recently when a student sat across from me at a Starbucks in New York City and replied, "I look forward to the possibility of failure." Of course, this is not how most students respond to the question when sitting before the person who can make decisions about their academic futures, but this young man took a risk.



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"You see, my parents have never let me fail," he

**REMEMBER:** The **claim** is an arguable statement—an idea that the author asks an audience to accept. The author develops the claim with reasons and supporting details such as facts, reasons, examples, statistics, and quotations.

Remember: The author will develop his or her claim with a series of **reasons** and **evidence**. **Reasons** are more specific statements that support the overall claim. **Evidence** is a series facts, examples, statistics, and quotes that support the reasons and ultimately the claim.

Click [here](#) for more practice reading and answering questions based on an Argumentative Text.