

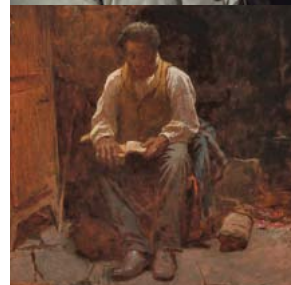
INSTRUCTIONAL TASK 1

TASK 1

WRESTLE WITH THE ARGUMENT *Close Reading of an Argumentative Text*

Steps Outlined:

1. Select an argumentative text for students to read.
2. Students should read the entire work through without stopping and then go back and re-read the passage, prepared to annotate.
3. As they re-read, students should identify the passage or sentence that best states the author's argument.
4. Students continue to re-read, identifying passages, phrases and/or sentences that the author uses to prove his argument.
5. Once students have completed a second read, they can begin recording their findings on the two-column chart found below. They should note the statement or passage in which the evidence appears in the first column and then explain how this statement supports the author's argument in the second column.
6. Students should read the passage a third time with an eye toward "wrestling with the argument" and considering how it could be made better, what is convincing, or unconvincing, about it.
7. The task concludes with a brief writing assignment that asks students to critique the argument and evidence, and explain how to improve the piece.



INSTRUCTIONAL TASK 1 (continued)

WRESTLE WITH THE ARGUMENT

Title:

Claim/Thesis:

| What evidence for the argument does the author provide? | How does this evidence support the author's argument? |
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| | |

Wrestle with the argument: Use your answers to the following questions to write a critique of the argument and evidence.

1. Do you agree with the author's conclusions?
2. What is convincing about the authors argument and evidence?
3. What is unconvincing?
4. What could be improved about the argument?
5. What could be improved about the evidence?