

Earth Science

Activity 16: Write an Opinion Essay

Topic 27: Agricultural Resources

General Instructions:

- Use a computer to complete your essay/document.
- Write a “five-part” 250-400 word essay in a single 40-minute session.
- Include an introduction, three key supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors prior to completing work.
- Submit or share your final document with your instructor.

Suggestions and Tips:

1. Read the background and context provided to familiarize yourself with the subject area.
2. Select either A or B as the basis for your thesis.
3. Plan the essay prior to writing it.
4. Make the essay organized. Avoid placing multiple points in one paragraph.
5. Use only Times New Roman font 12 with double-spacing to format your document.
6. Discuss only one perspective in each of the body paragraphs.
7. Conclude with a summary.
8. In the summary, rephrase the introduction and thesis. Emphasize key supporting rationale.

Background and Context:

Modern farming practices have allowed for significant diversification in life-style and life-choice. For example, many residents of major modern cities do not concern themselves with the production of food. Some may not consider from where (or, in what way) the food they consume has been produced.

Some city-residents grow ornamental plants, have pets, or even grow a small vegetable garden – but, many do none of these things. Workers commute to-from their job while consuming energy, food and water. Often, their food, water, and energy originate from rural areas.

Many rural based farmers spend a lot of time and money producing food for others. Farmers have access to news and other media which includes information about large cities. Even so, these same farmers may be less familiar with day-to-day life in a city - such as “rush-hour-traffic.”

Position A: City dwellers should be required to work on a farm a few days per year for a better understanding of food-value.

Position B: Rural residents should be required to visit a large city for a few days each year to better understand day-to-day perspectives of life-in-a-city.