

Physical Science

Activity 16: Write an Opinion Essay

Topic 15: Periodic Table

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:

The periodic table is an arrangement of the chemical elements. Elements are organized on the basis of their atomic numbers, electron configurations and recurring chemical properties.

Elements are presented in order of increasing atomic number. The standard form of the table consists of a grid of elements, with rows called periods and columns called groups.

A scientist (Mendeleev) arranged the elements by atomic mass, corresponding to relative molar mass. (See: Wikipedia article). Some have argued there are better ways to display/communicate the Elements. Others argue that the Mendeleev design has been used successfully for many years and there is no compelling reason to use a different design.

Positions:

Position A: Alternative ways to display and communicate the Elements (different from the Mendeleev developed table) should be considered.

Position B: The *Mendeleev-developed* table has served science well for many decades and is in no need for modification or change.