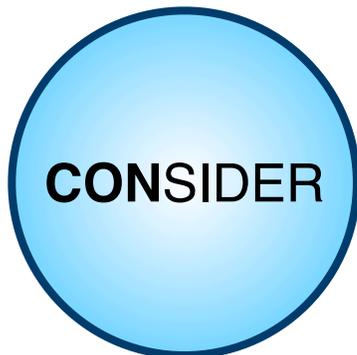


The CON-Text Multimodal Essay

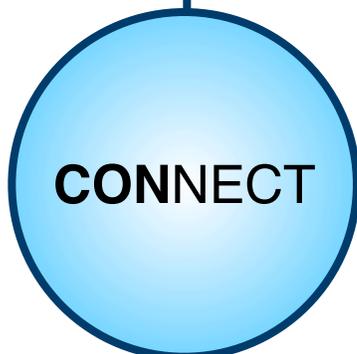
For Grades 6-12



CONSIDER all of the key ideas the text raises. Next, choose one key idea that interests you and write a one paragraph summary of it:

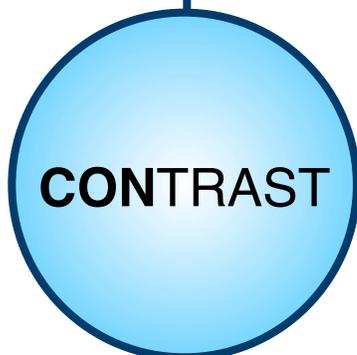
1. Introduce the text and provide 1-3 sentences of *overview*.
2. In 2-4 sentences, *narrow the focus* and *describe* your chosen key idea that the text is raising by launching:

A **CONTROLLING STATEMENT OR QUESTION**



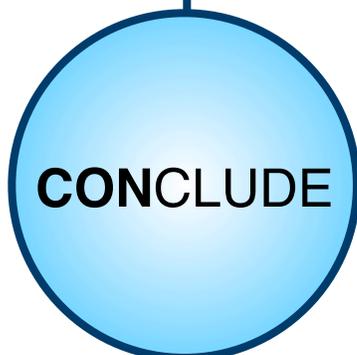
CONNECT the key idea to a relevant current event about pop culture, sports, politics, nature, science, technology, or something else:

1. Start your paragraph with a *linking transition* (i.e., *The same may be true for...*, *Now consider the case of...*, or *Unfortunately, this lesson could have helped...*).
2. Next, provide 2-4 sentences *summarizing* the current event broadly.
3. Follow this with 3-5 sentences *describing specific details* that support the comparison.



CONTRAST the key idea with a related current event example that suggests the opposite may be true. This is sometimes referred to as the *counterargument* or *antithesis*.

1. Start your paragraph with a *contrasting transition* (i.e., *However...*, *Despite this...*, or *Alternatively...*).
2. Next, provide 2-4 sentences *summarizing* the second current event broadly.
3. Follow this with 3-5 sentences *describing specific details* that support the contrast.



CONCLUDE the essay by addressing the key idea in a revised way now that you've considered both sides of the issue. This section provides the reader insight regarding

- what we know for certain and/or
- what we may need to consider in the future and/or
- any "lessons learned"

1. Begin your paragraph with 1-3 sentences that *broadly summarize* the key idea of the essay. It's okay to use *plurals* (i.e., "people", "politicians", "kids") rather than specifics here.
2. Next, provide 1-3 sentences that *refer back* to either of the current events or the text itself. Avoid describing the key idea in "black and white" terms by using phrases like
 - *Perhaps*
 - *It might be*
 - *It may be that*

BRAINSTORMING A TOPIC



Write down one **key idea or question** the text raises:

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES BANK

safety	technology	nature	aging
gender	crime	adolescence	health
education	religion	law	communication
community	violence	economy	internet
parenting	food	agriculture	labor
immigration	government	entertainment	leisure
travel	consumerism	democracy	politics

(Feel free to come up with your own, as well)

Choose one of the **contemporary issues** above and explain its connection to the key idea or question:

Who does this affect (*politicians, teens, the poor, etc.*)?

What effect(s) might this cause (*increase in/change in/rise in/shift in/creation of/destruction of, etc.*)?

Where might this/these effect(s) take place (*schools, cities, Mexico, concerts, etc.*)?



Now use the information above to **search** for a relevant current event. Turn your answers into **keywords** for search engines.

Notes from research thread #1:

Notes from research thread #2:

Notes from research thread #3: