

## A Few Nonfiction Text Sets to Support Work in Argument Essay Writing

*The following are a few possible text sets to support your work in the Argument Essay unit. The sets have been compiled to particularly represent different viewpoints on high-interest topics that are relevant to curriculum in science, social studies, and current events. Of course, you should feel free to seek out other topics and text sets, and to adapt the articles below to fit the needs of your students.*

### **Health and Wellness**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQ4wGDI56Zg>

Sugar Overload: clip from Australian news discussing how Jamie Oliver has convinced LA schools to ban chocolate milk. Citizens in Australia are interviewed about their feelings.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mo3qsx05974>

Flavored Milk: Tasty Nutrition: video clip showing a nurse for the Mid-West Dairy organization explaining the benefits of chocolate milk.

Schools May Ban Chocolate Milk Over Added Sugar by Christina Hoag. ABC news.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=13559159> (Adapted version is also on the website for staff developers)

Describes the debate and provides points from each side.

Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution. Flavored milk versus white milk: What's the difference?

Q&A with Dr. Sarah Jane Schwarzenberg, co-chair of MN-AAP's pediatric obesity taskforce

<http://mnaap.org/pdf/1108chocolatemilk.pdf>

[http://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/child\\_nutrition/health\\_kit/FinalFlavoredMilkAdvertorial110909.pdf](http://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/child_nutrition/health_kit/FinalFlavoredMilkAdvertorial110909.pdf)

Ad by the National Dairy Council showing benefits of chocolate milk

Information about the health benefits of chocolate milk from Trumoo (a company that sells chocolate milk:

<http://www.trumoo.com/nutrition/benefits/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsU-E57vea0>

Moo TV: a video made by grade 4 students to campaign against chocolate milk. They were inspired by a video clip their teacher showed them (Jamie Oliver's show).

[http://www.whymilk.com/studies\\_print.php?study=milk\\_consumption\\_in\\_schools\\_dropped](http://www.whymilk.com/studies_print.php?study=milk_consumption_in_schools_dropped)

study about students drinking less milk when only regular milk is offered. Study is funded, in part, by Milk Processor Education Program.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1XGy45F210>

Raise your Hand for Chocolate Milk: video clip showing a dietician who works for a Dairy organization explaining the benefits of chocolate milk.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjKFlusW-Xc&feature=related>

Raise your Hand for Chocolate Milk: celebrities and authors of books on health discuss why they are pro-chocolate milk.

## ***Recycling***

Recycling facts for kids:

<http://www.chevroncars.com/learn/wondrous-world/recycling-facts>

Information about waste and recycling:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/earth/recycle/waste.htm#save>

An article about recycling: "Recycling-Chemistry Can"

[http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&pageLabel=PP\\_SUPERARTICLE&nodeid=1758&use\\_sec=false&sec\\_url\\_var=region1&uuid=b9bbb526-349d-4cb4-8ec1-9f6ee721ff31](http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&pageLabel=PP_SUPERARTICLE&nodeid=1758&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1&uuid=b9bbb526-349d-4cb4-8ec1-9f6ee721ff31)

An article about the waste produced by plastic water bottles:

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/stories/spacescience/water-bottle-pollution/>

A news clip that argues recycling is the "lazy" way of saving our planet:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVS3O5vxpJI&feature=related>

An article on the problems with plastic, and attempts to create a viable replacement:

<http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/2011/07/plant-powered-plastics/>

An article that argues recycling is a waste of time, money and energy:

<http://mises.org/daily/1911>

## ***Censorship***

An article about attempts to ban Harry Potter books in schools:

<http://childrensbooks.about.com/cs/censorship/a/banharry.htm>

Ways kids can join the fight for free speech:

<http://www.kidsspeakonline.org/whatcanido.html>

An article about the freedom to read:

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/freedom-read>

An article about Facebook and free speech:

<http://www.allfacebook.com/study-facebook-teaches-kids-freedom-of-speech-2011-09>

An article on finding age-appropriate books for readers:

<http://www.scholastic.com/resources/article/books-for-kids/>

An article about parents attempting to ban one of their child's summer reading books:

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/sep/24/parents-say-book-inappropriate-for-teens/>

Video of a local school board meeting on the book ban of Bless Me, Ultima:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5i\\_lf5zOY6Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5i_lf5zOY6Q)

## ***Green Energy***

The pros and cons of solar energy:

[http://www.clean-energy-ideas.com/articles/pros\\_and\\_cons\\_of\\_solar\\_energy.html](http://www.clean-energy-ideas.com/articles/pros_and_cons_of_solar_energy.html)

An argument against solar panels for aesthetic purposes:

<http://www.infrastructurist.com/2011/03/29/get-your-ugly-solar-panel-off-my-pristine-utility-pole/>

An article on one negative effect of alternative energy sources:

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2011/11/05/wind-farms-disrupting-radar-scientists-say/>

A video on alternative energy:

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/player/environment/energy-environment/alternative-energy.html>

An article about President Obama's promotion of clean energy:

<http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3756003>

An article about urban farms:

<http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/2008/10/farms-sprout-in-cities-2/>