

OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS

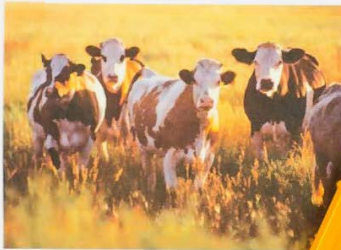


Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____ Date: _____
 Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color shown.

720L Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____ Date: _____
Eating Meat is No Worse than Veggies

760L Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____ Date: _____
Eating Meat Hurts the Environment

People today are eating more meat than ever. It is delicious, but it's dangerous for our environment. The animals we eat release methane gas when they digest food. This is a big problem. These gasses are called greenhouse gasses. They build up in the atmosphere and trap heat. This causes the average global temperature to rise over time. You may have heard of global warming. This is what people mean when they use that term.



A herd of cattle

People can reduce methane gasses by eating less meat. Livestock that are raised for humans to eat are a major cause of these gasses. The United Nations said that livestock caused 18 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions every year. By reducing the amount of meat we eat, we can help lower greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere.



It's easy to swap out meat with vegetarian options.

Livestock farms and companies have claimed that eating a vegetarian diet is more likely to raise greenhouse gas emissions. That's a silly claim. The facts remain that lowering the amount of meat that we eat will reduce greenhouse gasses. This will help with global warming. It's the right thing to do for the environment.

change. Some of these groups blame that livestock raised for people to eat are far from the truth.



So, before you blame meat, maybe we're asking the wrong question. Perhaps we should ask what other ways we could help the environment.

believe about greenhouse



used by opponents as



emissions more than



no more harmful than



OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS

2nd & 3rd grade

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Each story includes:

- 1 page of multiple choice and short response questions



ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS



MagiCore Learning, LLC is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	1185L-1385L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."



650L

Opposing Viewpoints

Name: _____

Immigration: Stricter Laws Needed

Immigration is a delicate topic. Some people believe that immigration laws are uncaring. That is not true. Those that believe immigration needs to be handled better have a good reason. We want what is best for the citizens of America. We also want what is best for immigrants.

Illegal immigration is a problem today. If someone was born in a different country and is now in the United States, they need to follow rules. They need to fill out paperwork and answer questions. If they do not do then they are not legal residents. They are undocumented immigrants. They cause a strain on our country. This means that we can't take care of our citizens as well. It is also dangerous to have criminals in our country that are not documented. Criminals can help into our country. Stricter immigration laws will help America but keep us safe.



Border patrol at sea by the U.S. Customs

760L

Opposing Viewpoints

Name: _____

Date: _____

Eating Meat Hurts the Environment

People today are eating more meat than ever. It is delicious, but it's bad

Forming Opinions

An opinion is what someone thinks, feels, or believes.

Sometimes people think, feel, or believe different things about topics. This means people have opposing viewpoints.

While reading, it is important the reader is aware of the author's viewpoint. They need to be aware of the opposing side as well.

Finally, the reader should form their own opinion based on their personal thoughts, feelings, and beliefs.



Zoos are cruel to animals. The animals suffer because they are kept in small habitats, as opposed to their natural habitat. Many are forced to live in artificially different climates than they are adapted to. Many species of animals, such as monkeys are very intelligent and do not deserve this cruel treatment.



Zoos are beneficial to both animals and humans. Animals who are injured and could not survive in the wild are able to be cared for in zoos. Many zoos also have programs to breed endangered species. Humans benefit from learning about animals in zoos. People visit zoos and can experience animals up close, which makes them learn to love and care for nature.

What is your viewpoint of zoos? Back your opinion up with details about what you think, feel, or believe.

I believe zoos are beneficial to humans and animals.

FORMING OPINIONS

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respect
their
rights. We can
respectful way.

Reading Opinion Texts

1. What is the author's viewpoint?
2. Why does the author feel this way?
3. How might the opposing side feel?
4. What is your viewpoint? What do you think, feel, and believe about the topic? Finally, the reader should form their own opinion based on their personal thoughts, feelings, and beliefs.

FORMING OPINIONS

What is the author's opinion?

Understanding Viewpoints

Directions: Read each topic. Write two opposing viewpoints a person could have on each topic.

HOMEWORK

Teachers should not assign homework. Kids are in school all day focusing on academics.

Homework only it practice see what learn.

JUNK FOOD

Junk food has all the necessary nutrients.

Junk food

HUNTING

It is wrong when people hunt for sport.

It is so per

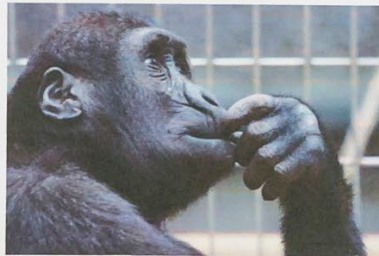
Forming Opinion

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Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color shown.

believe about greenhouse
red

used by opponents as
orange

emissions more than
yellow

emissions more than
green

no more harmful than
blue

720L Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____ Date: _____
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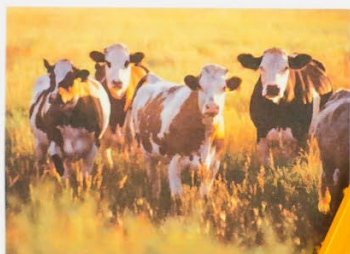
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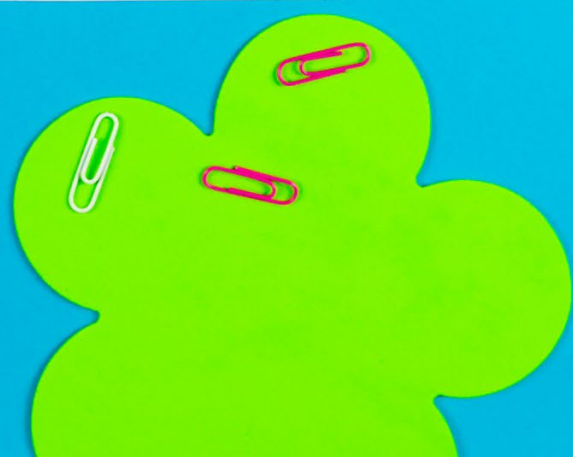
A herd of cattle

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Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____

Answer the following questions.

1. What does the author of "Immigration: Stricter Laws Needed" believe?

The author believes immigration laws.

2. With which statement would the author of "Immigration: Stricter Laws Needed" agree?

a. Immigration laws are unnecessary.
☒ b. Immigrants add to American culture.
 c. Immigration is a major problem for the United States.
 d. Diversity weakens our country.

3. Which statement from the second article would strengthen the country?

a. "Immigration is a delicate topic."
 b. "No one is arguing that America is better off with more immigrants."
☒ c. "Stricter immigration laws help America but keep us safe."
 d. "What we are fighting for is a better life for all."

4. The author of which article would give the same rights and responsibilities to immigrants?

a. "Immigration: Let's Loosen Up."
☒ b. "Immigration: Stricter Laws Needed."
 c. Neither article.
 d. Both articles.

5. Which words from "Immigration: Stricter Laws Needed" are the author's opinion? (Choose all that apply.)

a. "No one is arguing..."
 b. "delicate topic"
☒ c. "We also believe..."
☒ d. "It is also dangerous..."

650L Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____ Date: _____

Immigration: Stricter Laws Needed

Immigration is a delicate topic. Some people believe that immigration laws are uncaring. That is not true. Those that believe immigration needs to be stricter must have a good reason. We want what is best for the citizens of America. We also want what is best for immigrants.

Illegal immigration is a problem today. If someone was born in a different country and is now in the United States, they need to follow rules. They need to have the paperwork and answer questions. If they do not, then they are not legal residents. They are undocumented immigrants. They cause problems for the United States. This means that we can't take them as citizens as well. It is also dangerous to have people in the country that are not documented. Criminals can enter our country. Stricter immigration laws will help America but keep us safe.



Border patrol at sea by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

660L Opposing Viewpoints Name: _____ Date: _____

Immigration: Let's Loosen Up

Have you ever been the new kid at school? Or moved to a new neighborhood? Can you imagine moving to a new country? Being in a new culture? Surrounded by a new society of people? This is what immigrants come across every day.

Millions of people in the United States are immigrants or children of immigrants. An immigrant is someone who permanently moves to a country that is foreign to them. Passing down native cultures in immigrant families is what makes the United States diverse.



Multiculturalism is respect and understanding diversity and differences. It is a society that wants to include different cultures in its way of life. It is important to learn from other cultures. It is important to understand people's way of life. It is important to have a society that accepts the cultures from around the world. The United States should appreciate diverse cultures that make our country great.

Immigration in America is ruled through laws. Many feel there should be stricter laws for immigrants. There need to be laws that limit how many immigrants enter our country. But we should welcome these immigrants with a fair chance at a new life. We should allow them to make a new life in America. Let's loosen the laws to allow more diversity in our country.

How to Teaching Forming Opinions

Teaching students to distinguish opposing viewpoints on a topic, then to determine their own viewpoint is a critical skill. Students need to be able to look at media and understand that news, articles, and television are often swayed by the creator's thoughts, feelings, and beliefs. Students need to be able to recognize these opinions and learn to form their own opinions based on their personal experiences and values.

Topics

I strongly believe that we should not shy away from controversial, polarizing topics, including current events. Students see what is going on in the media. It is important we don't make real topics a taboo and have appropriate discussions about how people believe different things, and this is a wonderful thing.

Model

The best way to teach this skill is to provide real-life examples of opposing viewpoints. Model reading different newspapers or article clips with different viewpoints. Have classroom discussions about how students feel about these topics. Show news media clips from current events. Have a discussion about the different viewpoints displayed. While using these real-life discussions, model and show students the importance of respecting different viewpoints and disagreeing respectfully.

Here are some prompts you can use:

- I respectfully disagree with you because I feel_____.
- I understand _____ is important to you. On the other hand, _____ is important to me.
- I think it was a great point when you said _____ I think _____.
- You said _____. Another point to consider is _____.

Work as a class or in partners to complete the "Understanding Viewpoints" sheet. Allow time for students to brainstorm their own topics that are important to them and interview classmates, practicing using the prompts above.

Differentiation

- If students are struggling with this skill, you may need to revisit distinguishing fact from opinion.
- Allow more time for class discussions.
- Display photographs that show opposing viewpoints. Discuss how people feel differently about the topics.
- Use differentiated passages at individual student levels.

Social Media is Hurting Society

Lots of people use social media every day. Forty percent of the world has at least one social media account. Supporters of social media argue that social media makes connecting easy. They believe it helps relationships. However, some people are against social media. They say it makes people depressed and leads to cyberbullying. Social media is tearing up society. People on social media are more likely to be bullied through social media sites. Social media also puts people's personal information at risk.

Some say that social media sites strengthen relationships. However, those relationships can lead to cyberbullying. Often the "relationships" formed online are not real or honest. They are based on an online personality that might not be real. Social media can cause people to compare their lives to others' lives. What you see is not always what you get.

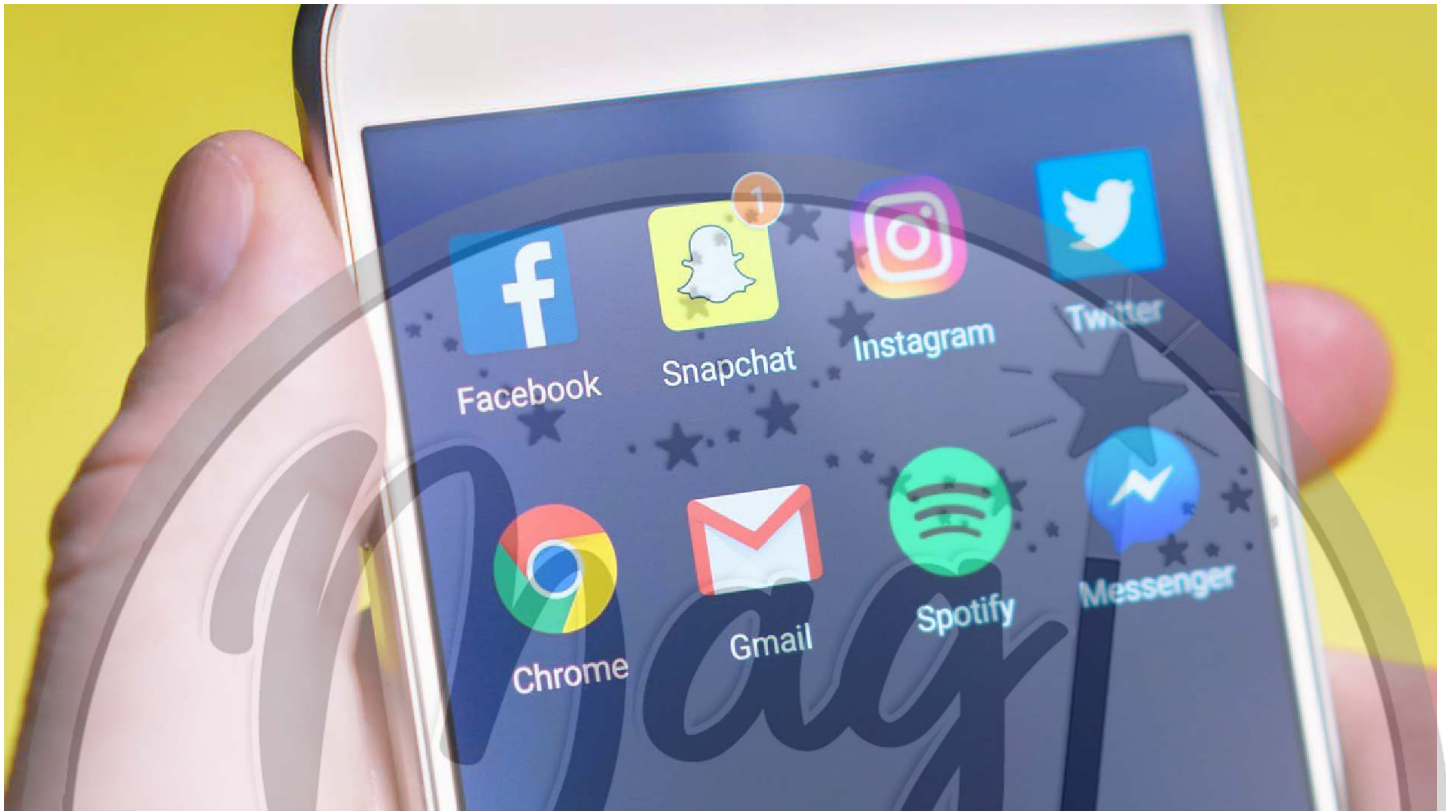


There is another major issue with social media. It can put people's personal information at risk. Three billion people use online social media. On average, we spend about two hours each day on social media. We share information and pictures. We like different posts. We write comments to people. This makes it easier for hackers to access our personal information. They can use our personal information to do harm.



Social media is hurting society. There is a lack of face-to-face communication. It is wasting our time. It creates very real dangers that paint social media in a negative light.

Social Media Increases Social Interaction



Social media is everywhere. Most Americans use social networking sites. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat are very popular. These sites help people interact with friends and family. They also help share the news and information quickly.

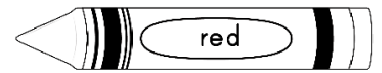
Social media is the fastest way to spread news. Have you heard of something going “viral”? It’s when something online becomes very popular, very fast. This means that breaking news or safety alerts can be shared to anyone, anywhere quickly. In fact, lots of Americans use social media as their news source.

Networking sites also help people connect with others. Many adults and teens use Facebook every day. It helps them connect with family and friends. The best part is it helps people living far apart to stay connected. What a valuable tool!

There isn’t much to say about social media that’s bad. Sure, it may waste time, but it is very valuable. Plus, people love it! So, the next time you open your social media apps, think of all the great ways they’re helping you!

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color shown.

1. Why did the author of "Social Media is Hurting Society" write the article?



- a. To scare the audience.
- b. To warn people.
- c. To tell a suspenseful story.
- d. To entertain the audience.

2. What does the author of "Social Media Increases Social Interaction" want you to think?



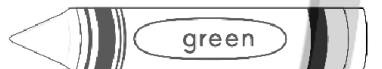
- a. Social media is good for people.
- b. Social media should only be allowed for adults.
- c. Social media has little value.
- d. Facebook is better for connecting than Snapchat.

3. Which statement from the text helps the reader understand the author's point of view?



- a. "Three billion people use online social media."
- b. "Some say that social media sites strengthen relationships."
- c. "Forty percent of the world has at least one social media account"
- d. "People on social media are more likely to be bullied through social media sites."

4. Which of the following is NOT a fact that the author of "Social Media Increases Social Interaction" uses to support her claim that social media helps people stay connected?



- a. "Networking sites also help people connect with others."
- b. "Lots of Americans use social media as their news source."
- c. "These sites help people interact with friends and family."
- d. "Plus, people love it!"

5. Which author do you agree with more, and why?



My Viewpoint

Directions: Write a letter to the authors of the articles. Explain your stance on the topic. Be sure to include examples, facts, and details about your thoughts, feelings, and beliefs about the topic. Be sure to include some of the following prompts in your letter:

- I respectfully disagree with you because I feel _____.
- I understand _____ is important to you. On the other hand, _____ is important to me.
- I think it was a great point when you said _____. I think _____.
- You said _____. Another point to consider is _____.

Dear _____,

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CORE

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Good to Go



Not O.K.

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