

Name:

## Analyzing Persuasive Writing Samples

**Directions:** Read each of the articles below. As you read, highlight the following:

Claim

Supporting Ideas/Evidence

Counterclaim

(Might not have one)

Scrawl down notes in the margins - thoughts, questions, comments, etc.

### **Article #1 What role should technology play in the classroom? SWAG writers take a look**

Created on Thursday, 13 April 2017 West Linn Tidings

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Is technology definitively a good thing in education? The Student Writer's Advisory Group, or SWAG — a collection of students from Wilsonville, West Linn, Lake Oswego and Lakeridge high schools — decided to take a closer look, and share their thoughts on technology in the classroom. Here is one of their articles.

#### **Phones in Classrooms**

**By Karthik Sreedhar**

A teacher is standing in the front of a classroom lecturing, believing that all of their students are listening. Instead, when they turn around what they see is a sea of students looking downward, their eyes glued to the screens of their cell phones, not a single one paying attention to the teacher.

This scenario has become all too common at high schools nowadays. Students are prioritizing checking social media and texting over their education. Many solutions have been implemented to ease this problem, including teachers requiring students to leave their phones at the front of the classroom before class begins, or taking away phones if they are seen in use. However, these methods are proving ineffective because students are either still keeping their phones with them or hiding them while they are using them.

Due to the fact that phones have become such an integral part of student's lives, the only way to ensure they are not a distraction is to use them as a tool in the classroom to learn. It is time for phones to be integrated into classrooms and be used as another way of learning.

*Karthik Sreedhar is a sophomore at Lakeridge High School.*

**Article #2: Sample Letter to a Member of Congress**

### **Article #3: Oregonians vigilance should continue as the weather warms**

By [The Oregonian Editorial Board](#) on January 15, 2017 at 8:30 AM, updated January 15, 2017 at 8:36 AM

As record snowfall swallowed up the Portland area over the past week, the ongoing and often overwhelming conversation about our region's homeless crisis turned into real action. Oregonians read about the deaths of [four homeless individuals](#), at least two of whom appeared to have been living on the street while suffering a mental health crisis. And Oregonians acted. They offered up blankets, coats, tarps, food and, most important, their concern.

Instead of rushing by those showing signs of suffering as temperatures dropped, some people stopped, checked on their well-being and extended help. On Tuesday, the night a fourth hypothermia victim was found in Portland this winter, local authorities rightly encouraged citizens to continue stepping up to assist in the work.

As our streets thaw in coming days, the greatest risk to Portland would be that residents' hearts chill back into complacency.

It's not always easy. Seeing someone suffering a mental health breakdown can be scary. Those who live or work in the inner-city, in particular downtown Portland, often witness behaviors that are unsettling but walk on by, perhaps a little proud that they're humane enough not to cross the street. That's not enough. To address this homelessness crisis so intrinsically bound with a mental health catastrophe, citizens must continue to be on watch, if only to call the crisis line (503-988-4888 or 9-1-1) to get help on the way.

It's part of our social responsibility to make that call, just as it is when people witness a car accident or a serious fall.

Even better, community members can address their fears and take a series of free classes for residents in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties to help them learn how to recognize and respond to emotional and mental crises. The classes, listed at [GetTrainedToHelp.com](#), should be considered as necessary as CPR training.

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"It's the community that keeps a community healthy," says David Hidalgo, director of Multnomah County's Mental Health and Addiction Services department.

The [Unity Center for Behavioral Health](#) should open later this month and make it easier for the community to help. The center was originally scheduled to begin taking patients Friday. But that was delayed. It now plans to open its doors by month's end in the former state hospital building in Northeast Portland, just across I-84 from the Moda Center. Highly visible, as it should be, and more necessary now than it's ever been.

The site will offer a psychiatric emergency room with the ability to treat as many as 55 people suffering from mental health and addiction crises. The center, a partnership of four local hospitals, also will staff investigators and a rotating schedule of county judges who will have the ability to determine when someone isn't capable of turning down the help they obviously need.

Patients can stay in the ER for 23 hours, in which time they may receive the counseling, support contacts and medication deemed necessary for them to be checked out. These beds will help ease the "boarding" that doctors have seen in ERs in recent years as they've struggled to find appropriate care for psychiatric patients in distress. Those who need care beyond the 23 hours at Unity can be checked into in-patient care on the facility's upper floors that have beds for 80 adults and 22 young people and adolescents.

So many families have endured the agony of chasing their adult children as they drifted away to a life on the streets. Karen Lee Batts' family tried for years to help the 52-year-old woman suffering from schizophrenia. That was true, too, for the family of Zachary Young, 29, who grew up in McMinnville and died of hypothermia last week. Zachary had suffered a serious head injury in a skateboarding accident when he was 15 and was never the same.

By the time both turned 18, neither family could force their loved ones to get the social services they needed.

It's too late for these children. But with new resources and a vigilant community, there can be hope for others.

