

Argument Task Card

Scenario:

You are a matron on the Orphan Train. You used to live in New York and witness the poverty and sickness of those from there. You watch dozens of children leave the orphanages and streets of the East Coast to travel to the West. You do not deny that children must leave any connection to their past behind including family.

Task:

Write an argumentative paragraph explaining why the Orphan Train is a great opportunity for these children.

Transition Words to include:

Although,
For instance,
In fact,
I am sure,



Argument Task Card

Scenario:

You are a young woman traveling West to visit family. You see ten children marched out to the town square on one of your last stops. They look tired, dirty and scared. Hundreds of townspeople are watching as various people inspect the children and lead some away. You don't deny that some of the children might have a better life in this area than the big cities of the East.

Task:

Write an argumentative paragraph explaining why traveling on the Orphan Train does not benefit these children.

Transition Words to include:

Despite,
Since,
As you can see,
Further
In the end,



Argument Task Card

Scenario:

Your parents have died, and you live on the streets of New York. You live in a cardboard box and beg for food and money.

You don't deny that you do have friends who help you and relatives in the area.

Task:

Write an argumentative paragraph explaining why the Orphan Train is a great opportunity for you.

Transition Words to include:

Undoubtedly,
However,
It seems,
Moreover,
I am sure



Argument Task Card

Scenario:

You are five years old, and your mother is sick and has to go to the hospital. You have no nearby friends and family to take care of you, so you are sent to the Children's Aid Society. After several weeks, they put you on the Orphan Train, where you live with three families until one decides to keep you.

Task:

Write an argumentative paragraph explaining why the Orphan Train is not a good solution for you.

Transition Words to include:

It is true,
But,
Without a doubt,
Additionally,
Of course,



Argument Task Card

Scenario:

You are eight years old and work from sun-up to sunset as a bootblack. Your parents work long hours in a factory and have told you that you need to find a new home since they can no longer afford you. You rarely eat and get sick often. You don't deny that you are lucky to at least have a shoe-shine box and way to make money.

Task:

Write an argumentative paragraph explaining why the Orphan Train is a great opportunity for these children.

Transition Words to include:

Despite,
Since,
As you can see,
Further,
In the end,



Argument Task Card

Scenario:

You just started school and overheard girls in your class calling you a "train kid." Even though you've been with your family since you were a baby, you aren't as close as other families you've seen. You saw your mother put a different name than the one they call you on your school paperwork, and she has pictures of a baby that is not you in her bedroom.

You don't deny that you have food to eat, a roof overhead and now an education.

Task:

Write an argumentative paragraph explaining why the Orphan Train was not a positive solution for you.

Transition Words to include:

Although,
For instance,
In fact,
I am sure,
In conclusion,

