

Name: _____

Bell Ringers

Motivation Monday

Use one of the sentence starters below to respond to the motivational quote.

What this means to me is...

This is relevant to my life because...

The big idea is...

I experienced this once when...

This reminds me of...

TRY IT TUESDAY

Rewrite the sentence(s) and correct the mistakes.

wording
wednesday

My Definition:

Illustration:

Word:

Antonyms:

Synonyms:

Think About it Thursday

Write a thoughtful response to the scenario. Be sure to write in complete sentences!

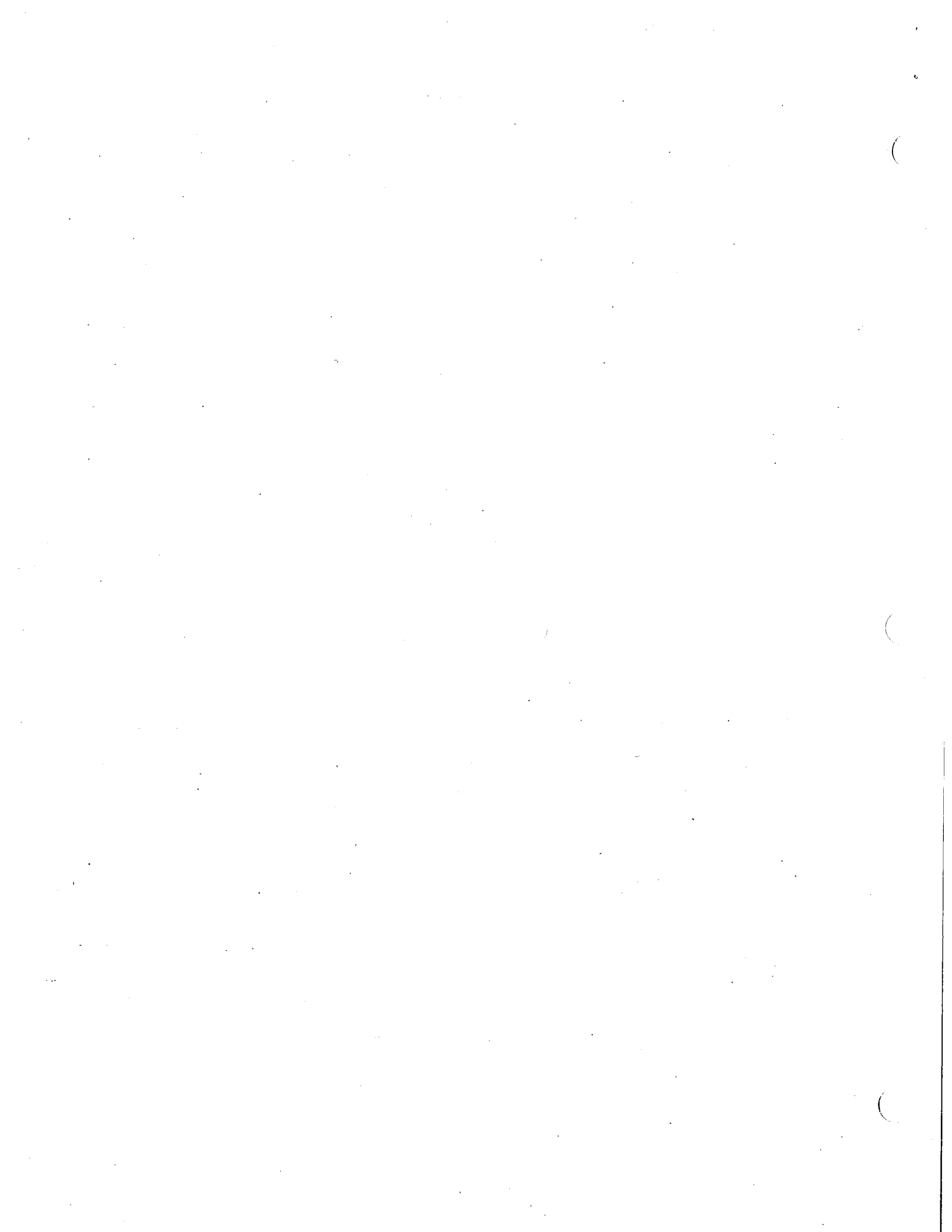
FRIYAY!

NAME:

Argument Essay Checklist

- Read essay prompt
- Decide which side you are on and choose your central claim: Should fidget spinners be allowed in school?
 - Fidget spinners should be allowed in school.
 - Fidget should not be allowed in school.
- Conduct Research to provide evidence for your central claim (20 pts)
 - Read the SCOPE article and
 - Read the NEA article
 - Complete "Conducting Your Research" Google Document
- Begin Pre-writing by completing the Essay Kit (30 pts)
- Complete the Rough Draft of your essay (40 pts)
- Revise and Edit your Rough Draft (10 pts)
- Submit your Rough Draft (50 pts)

TOTAL: 150 points



Should Fidget Spinners Be Allowed at School?

Liam says yes. Principal Schwartz says no. Who makes the better argument? You decide!



YES

Let us spin!

Dear Principal Schwartz,

I am disappointed that fidget spinners have been banned from our school. I—and my classmates—believe this ban should be lifted. After hearing why, I think you will agree with me.

First, fidget spinners are not toys; they are essential learning tools. The idea is that twirling the spinner gives you something to focus your extra energy on, which makes it easier to pay attention to what you're learning. So when we are using spinners in class, it might *seem* like we are playing, but the spinners are actually helping us focus.

I know some teachers have reported that fidget spinners end up being more of a distraction than a help, but at least fidget spinners are **relatively** quiet. Sometimes kids click their pens over and over or tap their feet when they are trying to concentrate. I find things like that way more distracting than fidget spinners. Plus, not all fidget spinners are the same. You could just ban the ones that are really flashy, like the ones with blinking lights.

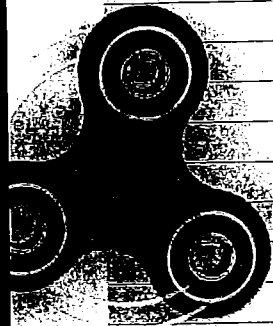
I do understand that distraction is a big issue, but the benefits of fidget spinners far outweigh any **drawbacks**. They bring kids together. Nearly every student has one, because they are inexpensive. On the bus, instead of looking at our phones and not talking to each other, we compare and trade spinners. At recess we hold spinning contests.

I've even heard that some teachers are incorporating fidget spinners into their math and science lessons. Spinners have brought a lot of joy to our school.

I realize that many schools have banned fidget spinners, but that doesn't make it right for us. Wouldn't it be great to find a way to use spinners productively? I say we try it!

Thank you for considering my ideas.

Liam Swan



NO

Save them for after school.

Dear Liam,

I'm sorry to hear you are disappointed in the ban on fidget spinners, but I hope that after reading my letter, you will understand that the decision was made with your best interests at heart. After a lengthy discussion with the faculty, it became clear that spinners were **impeding** both students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach.

You mentioned that fidget spinners help with concentration. The people selling spinners may make this claim, but there is no **concrete** evidence that the claim is true. In fact, many psychologists have expressed suspicion about this **alleged** benefit.

And even if fidget spinners do help some kids focus, they can still be disruptive to others. Even quiet fidget spinners are visually distracting. Imagine standing in front of 20 students all twirling and tossing their spinners like circus performers. Many teachers have told me that students tend to focus on all the spinning going on instead of the work at hand. Plus, I've heard some kids have gotten hurt doing spinner tricks. For example, a boy in Australia got a nasty eye injury from his spinner. (Please be careful!)

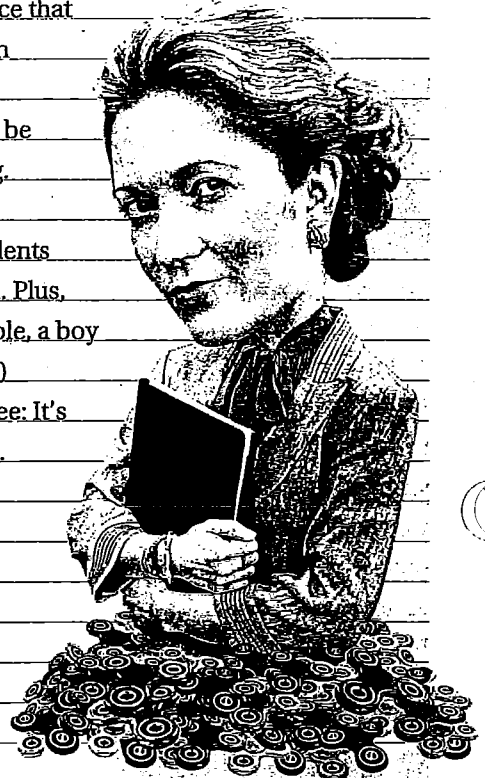
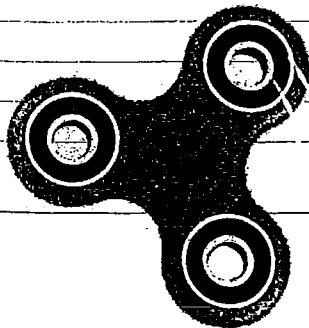
As to your point about spinners bringing students together, I agree: It's wonderful that you and your peers are bonding over a shared interest. That doesn't mean spinners belong at school though.

However, I'm not opposed to softening the ban, such as by permitting fidget spinners on the bus and during lunch and recess or in class when they are part of a lesson. Why don't you suggest some rules that our school could follow to make sure spinners are used in responsible ways?

Thank you for voicing your concerns about an issue that is important to you. Your opinion is always welcome.

Sincerely,

Principal
Schwartz



Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Hunt through each letter for the following elements.

1. Underline the **central idea**, or **central claim**.
2. Put a star next to two pieces of **supporting evidence**.
3. Circle the **counterargument**.
4. Put a double star next to the writer's **rebuttal**.

YOU decide: Who made the stronger argument?