

Persuasive Essay Unit

English 9 and 10

Student Study Guide "Juvenile Justice"



Essential Question- Initial Response.....	___/5
Anticipation Chart.....	___/10
Concept Organizer- <i>JUSTICE</i>	___/10
Quick Vocabulary List.....	___/5
Surveying the Text: Making Predictions and Asking Questions.....	___/30
Charts (2) of Defendants' Crimes and Sentences.....	___/20
Interpretation: Thompson & Hernandez.....	___/10
Analysis of Juvenile Crime Data.....	___/10

*Essay will be a separate grade

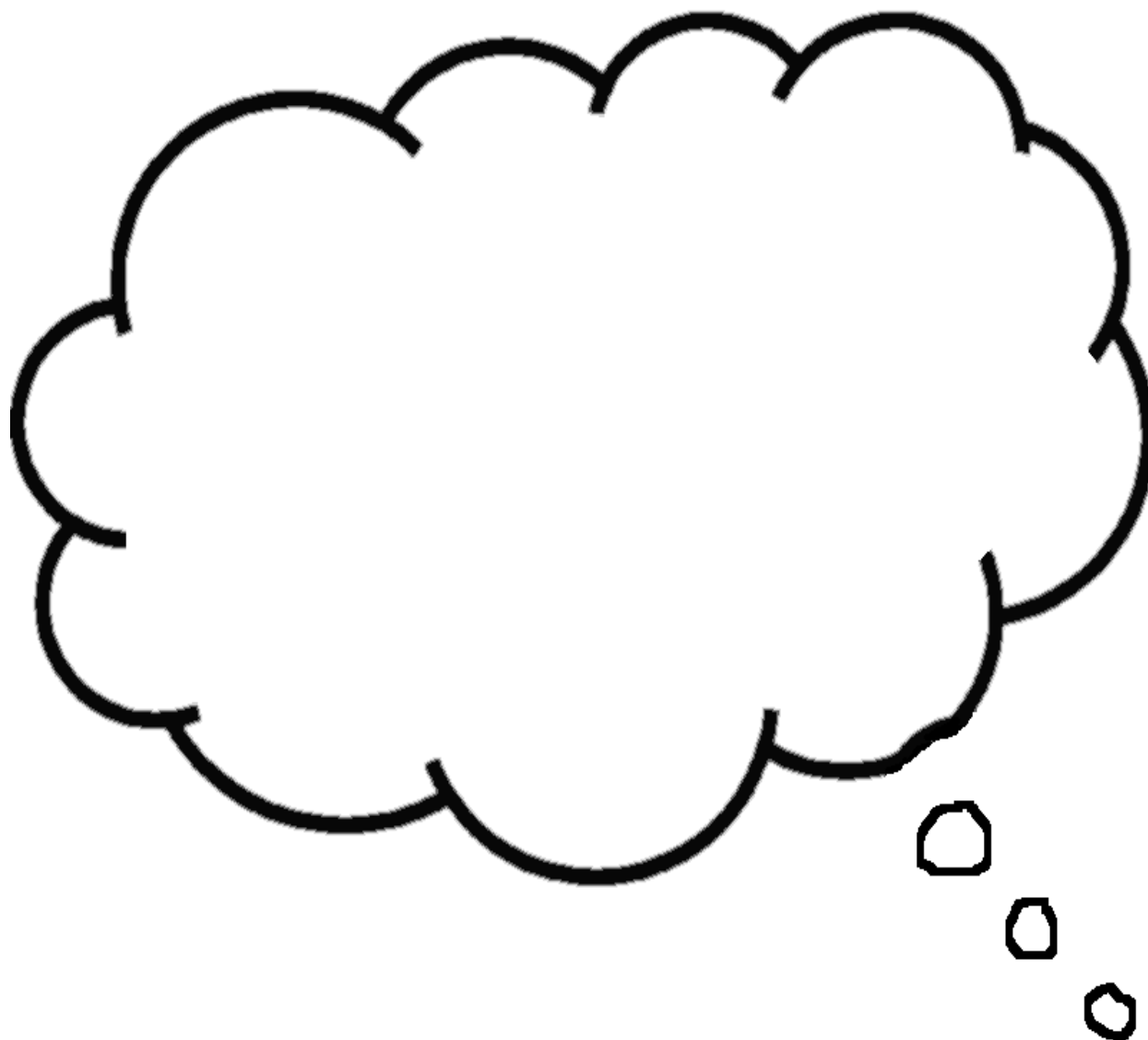
TOTAL POINTS: ___/100

Name: _____ Period _____

Essential Question

If a teen commits a crime, would justice be served if he/she were punished like an adult who commits the same crime?

Your initial thoughts:



Anticipation Chart

"Juvenile Justice"

Before Reading	The author's claim— article title/citation	After Reading—I think
<p>The juvenile arrest rate for violent crime is at an all-time high:</p> <p>AGREE DISAGREE</p>		
<p>Teenagers should be tried as adults for serious crimes:</p> <p>AGREE DISAGREE</p>		
<p>Teenagers have the same ability to understand their actions as adults:</p> <p>AGREE DISAGREE</p>		
<p>Teenagers under 18 should never be tried as adults even for serious crimes:</p> <p>AGREE DISAGREE</p>		

Concept Organizer

"WHAT IS JUSTICE?"

New Concept:

JUSTICE

Example Sentence: Families of the victims of Sept. 11, 2001 may still be seeking **justice** for the death of their loved ones.

Related words:

- *just*
- *injustice (antonym)*
- *justify*

Definition:

Essential Characteristics:

-
-
-
-

Examples:

-
-
-

Non-Examples:

-
-
-

My Sentence:

Quick Vocabulary List

DIRECTIONS: Look up each vocabulary word in the dictionary and write down its meaning. Then, write a sentence or draw a picture that demonstrates your knowledge of the word.

Term	Key Points of the Meaning	Sentence / Image / Picture
heinous		
perpetuating		
remorse		
constitutionality		
demeanor		
impulse		
incompetent		
diminish		

Chart of Defendants' Crimes and Sentences

PBS Frontline: Juvenile Justice

DIRECTIONS:

Read the backgrounds of four teens who committed serious crimes at the following website:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/juvenile/>

- Fill in the blank columns.
- Highlight or take notes on the text where the arguments are made for and against punishing juvenile like adults

Defendant	Age at the time of criminal act	Crime	Sentence	Notes (for or against adult sentencing)
Manny				
Shawn				
Marquese				
Jose				

Chart of Defendants' Crimes and Sentences

PBS Frontline: When Kids Get Life

DIRECTIONS:

Watch stories of teens who committed serious crimes and were sentenced to life in prison at the following website: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/whenkidsgetlife/view/>

- Fill in the blank columns.
- Take notes in the last box about your developing feelings towards how justice is being served/not served with these young men.

Defendant	Age at the time of criminal act	Crime	Notes on your thoughts towards whether/not justice is being served
Jacob Ind			
Erik Jensen			
Nathan Ybanez			
Andy Medina			
Trevor Jones			

Startling Finds on Teenage Brains

Vocabulary Development

DIRECTIONS: Find and highlight the following words in the article. Then, near the word, write down its definition (above, below, or in the margin of the text).

dazed: unable to think clearly

immaturity: not being grown up

quizzical: questioning

verdicts: legal decisions

impulsive: without thinking about results

erratic: irregular

abstract concepts: ideas that are not concrete or specific

massive: large

purged: gotten rid of

violent passions: very strong emotions

rash: done without thinking

vastly: enormously

diminished: reduced

maelstrom: whirlpool

accountability: responsibility

startling: surprising

drastic: extreme

Interpretation and Reflection Questions

Startling Finds on Teenage Brain by Paul Thompson

DIRECTIONS: Answer each of the interpretation questions in full and complete sentences. Make sure to address all parts of the question in your answer.

Logical Appeal:

1. What are Thompson's major claims and assertions? Do you agree with his claims?

2. Are any of his claims weak or unsupported? Which one and why?

Ethical Appeal:

1. Does Thompson seem deceptive? Why or why not?

2. Can you tell what Thompson's point of view is?

Emotional Appeal

1. Does this article affect you emotionally? What parts?

2. Do you think Thompson is trying to manipulate your emotions? In what ways? At what point?

Interpretation and Reflection Questions

Juveniles Tried as Adults Up 170% by Raul Hernandez

DIRECTIONS: Answer each of the interpretation questions in full and complete sentences. Make sure to address all parts of the question in your answer.

Logical Appeal:

1. What major claims and assertions does Hernandez write about? Do you agree with his claims?

2. Are any of his claims weak or unsupported? Which one and why?

Ethical Appeal:

1. What moral or ethical issues does Hernandez address in his article?

2. Hernandez is a staff writer for the Ventura County Star who frequently writes about legal and criminal issues. Does he seem trustworthy to write about this topic? Why or why not?

Emotional Appeal:

1. Does this article affect you emotionally? What parts?

2. Do you think Hernandez is trying to manipulate your emotions? In what ways? At what point?

Interpretation and Reflection Questions

Juvenile Crime Statistics

Dept. Of Justice- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

1. According to chart 1, what crimes/offenses did adult arrests decline more than juveniles between 1994-2003?
2. What year(s) had the highest number of arrests for murder among juvenile offenders? How many arrests (Chart 2)?

What year had the least? How many arrests?

3. According to charts 3 and 4, what criminal offense has the highest number of juvenile offenders?
4. Write a statement that summarizes the analysis of data of juvenile arrests for crimes committed from 1994-2003 (chart 4):
5. How could those who are in favor of sentencing juveniles to adults consequences use one or more data tables to support their argument?
6. How could those against adult sentencing of juvenile offenders use one or more data tables to support their argument?