

Common Sense for the American Tween

You will create your own version of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* but you will be bringing it into our modern times. Think about it- what is common sense for an 8th grader?

Using a half-sheet of regular, plain white computer paper, you will make a title page for a "booklet" (though you won't actually be making a booklet!). Include the title, author (you), date, and picture of the topic. On the back, you will write a short paragraph (3-5 sentence) introduction on the topic starting with a **claim** (using the words *common sense* in it), then including **evidence** (that you will locate via Internet), and finally **reasoning** (where you explain how the evidence fits the claim). Be sure to cite your evidence- say "According to..." when you mention it. Then, give 3 "How-to" steps to make it common sense! Lastly, write a 1-2 sentence (bio) summary about you and how the topic makes common sense to you. Look at the example!

You can make it serious or funny.

EXAMPLE ON BACK

Rubric:

Front:

___/1 title
___/1 author
___/1 date
___/2 pic

Back:

___/3 claim
___/3 evidence
___/3 reasoning
___/3 how-tos
___/3 bio

FRONT

Common Sense Guide to Brushing Your Teeth



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BACK

For most teenagers, brushing your teeth twice a day is a common sense part of your daily routine. According to the Youth Gallup Survey, 34% of teens brush their teeth once a day and 2% do not even brush at all. Even though the majority of teenagers brush their teeth twice a day, it is important for all to remember good hygiene, especially when you are going to school.

Make it *common sense*:

1. When you wake up, make brushing your teeth the first thing you do.
2. Chew some gum during the day so your breath does not stink.
3. Brush your teeth before you sleep. You will feel so fresh!

Crystal Jabiro is a teacher who deals with middle-school kids who don't brush their teeth. She didn't start brushing her teeth regularly till 7th grade because no one at home taught her. A mean girl told her to!

