

Students are to draw on content from their textbook when writing their argumentative essay. Below is a synopsis of that content. Consider the degree to which the gardening essay is informed by this content

**Unit Specific Criteria for Argumentative Essay (These criteria are addressed in the rubric to be shared at the webinar)**

Content draws on information from Reading 1 and unit video

**Reading 1:** Freakonomics Laid-Back Labor: The \$140 Homemade Scarf

Text sites stats showing that people enjoy performing menial labor when they don't have to. They enjoy cooking, growing flowers and vegetables, and knitting.

**Key Points:**

- Economists Valerie A. Ramey and Neville Francis classified home activities as labor and others as leisure. They used a 10-point scale survey. Knitting, gardening, and cooking were in the middle of the scale (7.7, 7.1, and 6.6).
- These activities were below sports and fishing but ahead of paying bills, cleaning the house or doing laundry.
- Author concluded that anything at or above 7.3 is leisure—so knitting is leisure, but gardening and cooking are not.
- Another definition: an activity is work if you get paid; if someone tells you to do it, it's work and if you choose to do it yourself, it's leisure.
- But why would you choose to do it? An evolutionary biologist might argue that we are driven to clothe ourselves and tame our surroundings. We also have incentives that go beyond the financial. Who we are and where we come from might also help explain an interest in these labor-intensive activities.

**Unit Video**

Video shows people having a conversation about Gardening being a leisure activity.

**Key Points:**

- Gardens are like painting with colours, shapes and forms.
- People love public gardens—they make their lives better.
- Being in a garden is enjoyable—people love the sights, smells—feels good being there.
- Experts say gardening has become the number-one leisure activity in America—this among baby boomers.
- People want activities that have long-term possibilities—gardening offers this.
- Gardening is a nice way to relax, gives a sense of accomplishment.

- A lot of money is spent on gardening—big industry.
- People like color, sophistication, technical difficulty.
- Highly stressed professionals find joy in a patch of dirt.
- A garden is a simple solution for complicated lives.

**Students are to use some of the vocabulary below from Unit 2:**

*boom, consensus emerge, sophisticated, engage in, leisure, menial, engage, thriving, respectively, strategy, incentive, devotion, grey area, evolve, execute*