

9th Grade

Snow Day #3

Complete pages 21-23  
in the Performance  
Assessment Workbook

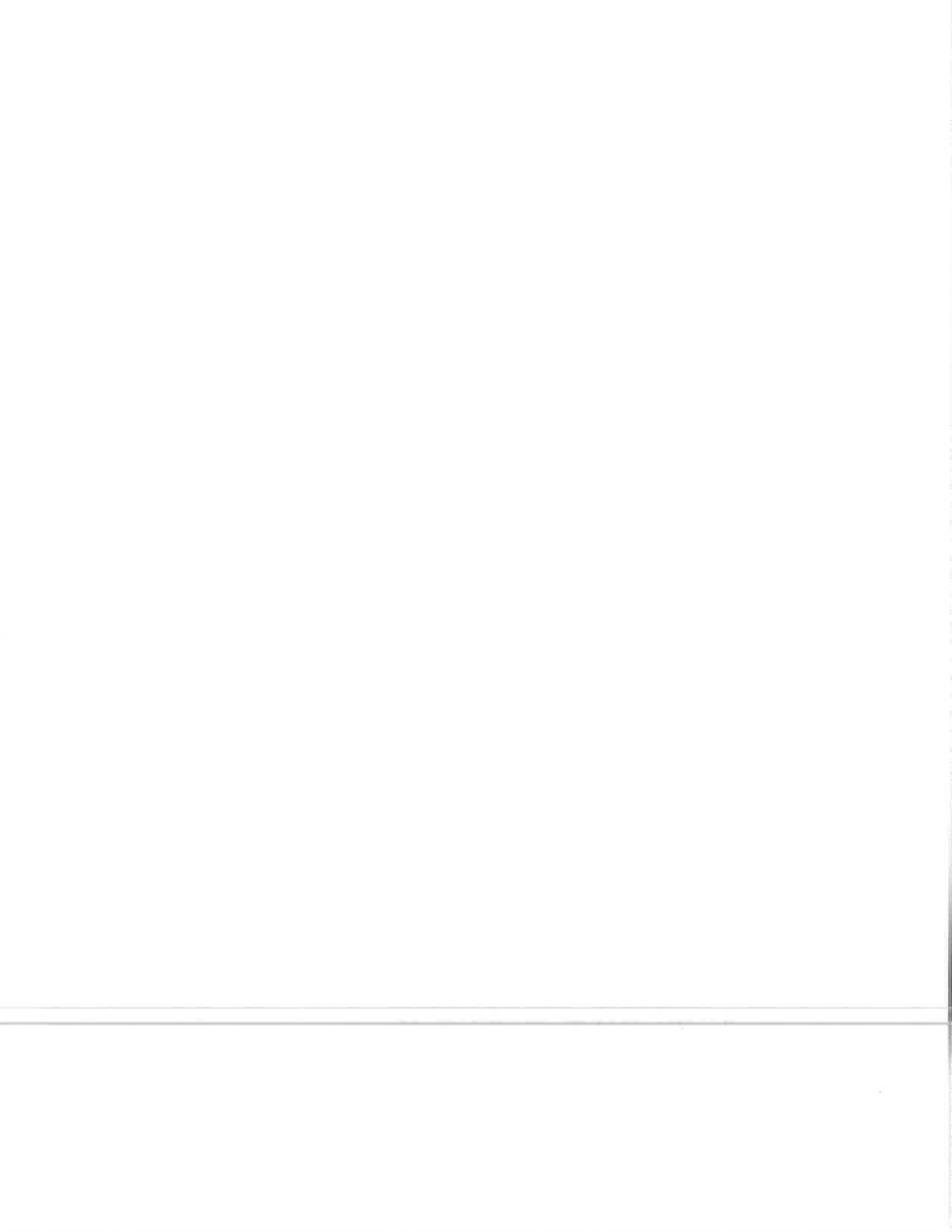
Snow Day #4

Complete pages 24-26  
in the Performance  
Assessment Workbook

Snow Day #5

Complete pages 27-30  
in the Performance  
Assessment Workbook

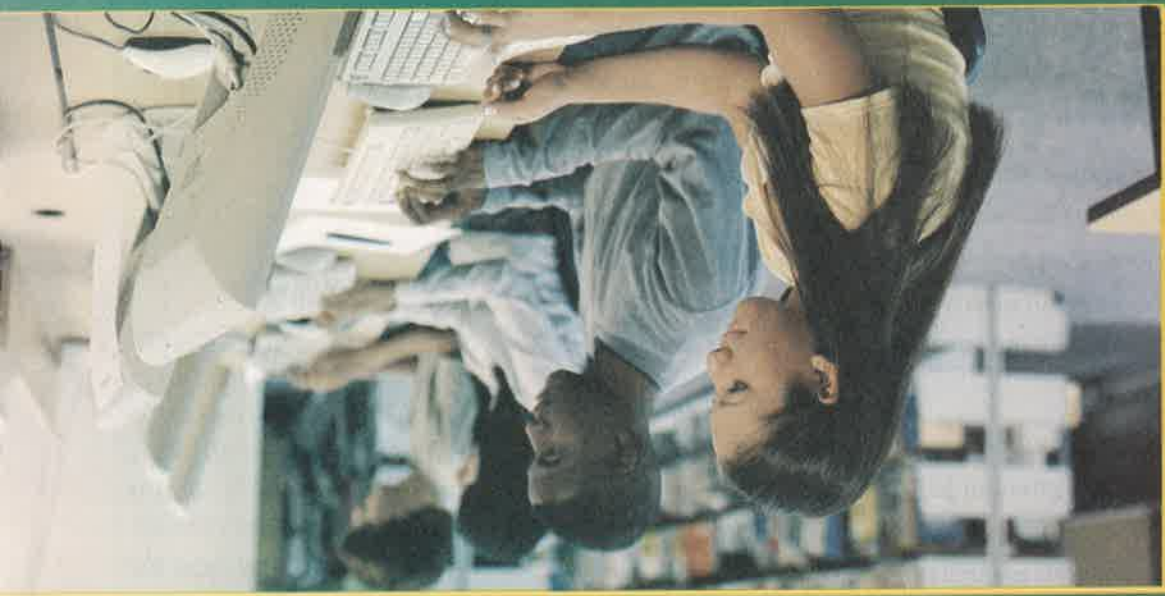
Mrs. Chapman



# STEP 3

## PERFORM THE TASK

### Can you make real friends on the Internet?



#### You will read:

▶ A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

*Study: The Internet Helps You Make More Friends, Be More Social*

▶ A BLOG

*Social Media, Pretend Friends, and the Lie of False Intimacy*

▶ A MAGAZINE ARTICLE

*Making Friends Through the Internet*

#### You will write:

▶ AN ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

*Can you make real friends on the Internet?*

## Part 1: Read Sources

Source 1: Newspaper Article

# Study: The Internet Helps You Make More Friends, Be More Social

by Graeme McMillan, June 16, 2011

It's the kind of news you can use next time concerned parents bring up the idea that the internet is making people more withdrawn and closed off from the rest of humanity: A new study from the Pew Research Center has found that online social networks actually seem to make people more social.

Pew polled 2,255 Americans during October and November last year, and of the 1,787 internet users in that group, 47% used social networking sites. Facebook was used by 92% of the 975 people that used social networks, with MySpace in second place, with 29%. LinkedIn and Twitter trailed behind, with 18% and 13% respectively.

That's almost twice as many as in 2008, when the survey was last held. But more interestingly, there's also been a rise in the number of close friendships people are reporting when compared with 2008—2.16 close friends on average, compared with 2008's 1.93—with that increase being led by those online, who reported an average of 2.26 close friends to the offline respondents' 1.75. It gets even better when you look at those using social networks, who reported 2.45 close friends on average.

**AS YOU READ** Analyze the data presented in the articles. Look for evidence that supports your position that you can make real friends online, or inspires you to change your position.

### NOTES

## Discuss and Decide

The author includes information about the number of close friends reported. What trend does the Pew Survey seem to reveal? Cite text evidence in your discussion.

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Close Read

evidence from the text to support your answer.

3. Are the increases in "close friends" and "ties" similar or different? Cite

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2. Explain the change in the number of people using social networking sites from 2008 to 2011.

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1. How did Pew Research collect their data?

Close Read

they feel a couple of weeks later.

for society, the answer is clear: Sign them up for Twitter, and see how

So, the next time someone says that they think the internet is bad

ties, but Twitter users have an average of 838.

different social networks, however: Facebook users average 648 social

of around 506. That number goes crazy when you start to plug in

tend to have 664 ties on average, compared with an offline average

20 users and non-internet users have, and found that online Americans

The study even looked into the number of social ties internet

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[social] ties on average, compared with an offline average of around 506.

...online Americans tend to have 664



# Social Media, Pretend Friends, and the Lie of False Intimacy



It's not an illusion. We really are doing more with each 24 hours, as technology enables (or forces) us to interact and intersect and do and consume with unprecedented volume and vigor. We live our lives at breakneck speed because we can, because we feel we have to keep up, and because every macro and micro breeze blows in that direction.

I remember the days before social media when I would get 20 phone calls per day and 50 or 60 emails, and felt exhausted by the pace of communication. Now we've traded the telephone for other connection points (I only get 2-3 calls per day), but the overall number of people ringing our doorbell through some mechanism has ballooned like Charles Barkley.

**The number of "inboxes" we possess is staggering:** Email (3 accounts for me), public Twitter, Twitter DM, public Facebook, Facebook messages, Facebook chat, LinkedIn messages, public Google+, Google+ messages, blog comments, Skype, text messages, Instagram, phone, voice mail, and several topically or geographically specific forums, groups and social networks. That's a lot of relationship bait in the water.

**AS YOU READ** Note all the issues that having many online friends can create. Is your opinion altered by this information?

**NOTES**

## Close Read

Which specific words does the author use in the text to suggest his or her position? What inference can you make about the nature of this position?

20 **The Lie of Opportunity**

How do we justify this? How do we convince ourselves that slicing our attention so thin in the turkey becomes translucent is a good idea?

We do it because we believe that more relationships provides more opportunity.

*"It's not what you know, it's who you know."*

*"Social media makes a big world smaller."*

*"LinkedIn is for people you know, Facebook is for people you used to know, Twitter is for people you want to know."*

30 All of these chestnuts are passed around like a flu strain because they make intuitive sense. But common among them is

the underlying premise that interacting with more people is inherently better than interacting with fewer people. I have always

believed this to be true, and in fact have delivered the lines above in presentations and on this blog. But today, I'm no longer convinced.

**Instead I wonder, what if we have it ALL wrong?**

I recognize this is not purely an either/or scenario, and

relationships that began with a Twitter exchange or series of blog

comments can flourish into treasured real-world ties.

40 But those situations where we "meet" someone through social

media, have the opportunity to interact in real life, and then develop

a relationship that creates true friendship are few and far between.

**And as social media gets bigger and more pervasive, this chasm**

**becomes even more difficult to cross.** As my own networks in social

media have gotten larger, I've ended up talking about my personal

life less, because a large percentage of that group don't know me,

or my wife, or my kids, or my town, or my interests. I don't want to

bore people with the inanities of the everyday. (Facebook is the one

exception, as I've always kept my personal account relatively small).

50 To some degree, I think this explains the popularity of Google +

among people with very large followings on Twitter and/or

Facebook. Google + provides a chance for a do-over, to create a new

group of connections that are more carefully cultivated.

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Close Read

What claim and counterclaim about the value of Internet contacts does the blogger make? Be sure to cite textual evidence in your response.

Write your response in the space provided.

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But that's just medicating the symptoms, not curing the disease. Fundamentally, technology and our use of it isn't—as we've all hoped—bringing us closer together. In fact, it may be driving us farther apart, as we know more and more people, but know less and less about each of them.

**Making Friends Out of Connections**

60 Maybe we should be focused less on making a lot of connections, and focused more on making a few real friends? I'm going to try to work on this, to identify people with whom I want to develop real friendships, and make a concerted effort to do so, even if it means answering fewer tweets and blog comments from a much larger group of casual connections.

We have to take at least some of these social media spawned relationships to the next level, otherwise what's the point beyond generating clicks and newsletter subscribers?

You think you know someone, but you don't. And that's social media's fault. But more so, our own.



# Making Friends Through The Internet

by Sally Arthur

Advantages and disadvantages of meeting friends online

**M**eeting friends on the Internet can have its advantages and disadvantages. There are a number of factors to consider.

Meeting friends online can happen more quickly than it might happen offline. You can even become friends with someone who lives in a different part of the world.

You can remain anonymous on the Internet. You do not have to share information about where you live, how old you are, or any personal details about your life. Online, you can be whoever you want to be, or just be yourself. This allows people to practice their

social skills in an anonymous setting.

One major disadvantage of making friends online is that you do not always know if people are who they say they are. Just as it can be a good thing to be anonymous to protect your safety and personal information, anonymity can be dangerous, too. If you are dealing with someone who is not forthcoming about their identity, you don't know his or her motive for doing so.

Making friends online also may prevent people from socializing outside of the Internet. While having friends online is a good way to find people with similar interests, friends who exist only on a computer screen do not provide the companionship necessary to sustain friendships. If having Internet friends comes at the cost of neglecting friends offline, the Internet becomes a disadvantage.

While there are advantages and disadvantages to meeting friends online, it is up to every individual to use discretion and be safe.

## Discuss and Decide

Reviewing the advantages and disadvantages Arthur lists, do you have a sense of her bias? Explain your thinking, citing evidence from the text.

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## Respond to Questions on Step 3 Sources

These questions will help you analyze the sources you've read. Use your notes and refer back to the sources to answer the questions. Your answers to these questions will help you write your essay.

1 Is the evidence from one source more credible than the evidence from another source? When you evaluate the credibility of a source, examine the expertise of the author and/or the organization responsible for the information. Record your reasons.

Source	Credible?	Reasons
Newspaper Article Study: The Internet Helps You Make More Friends, Be More Social		
Blog Social Media, Pretend Friends, and the Lie of False Intimacy		
Magazine Article Making Friends Through the Internet		

2 **Prose Constructed-Response** What point about making friends online is raised in all three sources? Why is this point important to address when making an informed decision about the validity of online friendships? Support your answer with details and evidence.

3 **Prose Constructed-Response** Does the evidence in "Making Friends Through the Internet" support or contradict the evidence in "Study: The Internet Helps You Make More Friends, Be More Social"? Use details from the article to support your answer.

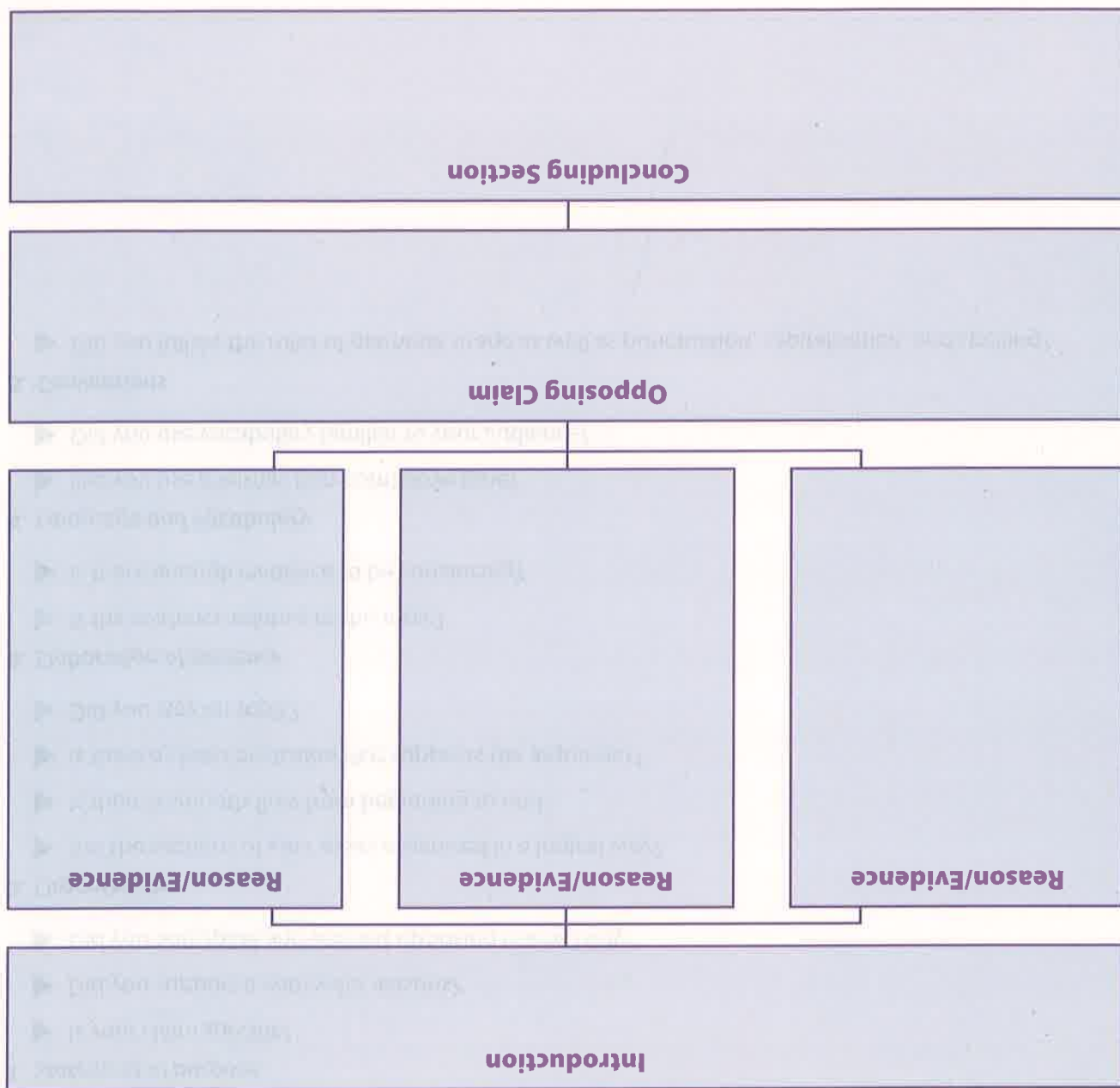
## Part 2: Write

### ASSIGNMENT

You have read about making friends online. Now write an argumentative essay explaining why you agree or disagree with the idea that you can make real friends on the Internet. Support your claim with details from what you have read.

### Plan

Use the graphic organizer to help you outline the structure of your argumentative essay.



**Draft**

Use your notes and completed graphic organizer to write a first draft of your argumentative essay.



**Revise and Edit**

Look back over your essay and compare it to the Evaluation Criteria. Revise your essay and edit it to correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.



**Evaluation Criteria**

Your teacher will be looking for:

**1. Statement of purpose**

- ▶ Is your claim specific?
- ▶ Did you support it with valid reasons?
- ▶ Did you anticipate and address opposing claims fairly?

**2. Organization**

- ▶ Are the sections of your essay organized in a logical way?
- ▶ Is there a smooth flow from beginning to end?
- ▶ Is there a clear conclusion that supports the argument?
- ▶ Did you stay on topic?

**3. Elaboration of evidence**

- ▶ Is the evidence relative to the topic?
- ▶ Is there enough evidence to be convincing?

**4. Language and Vocabulary**

- ▶ Did you use a formal, non-combative tone?
- ▶ Did you use vocabulary familiar to your audience?

**5. Conventions**

- ▶ Did you follow the rules of grammar usage as well as punctuation, capitalization, and spelling?