

Argument-Centered Education -- Argument Builder

Overall Position: In recent hurricanes, America has been living up to its values

Label	Self-reliance and pioneering spirit
Argumentative Claim	Texans have demonstrated a lot of self-reliance and the pioneering spirit they are famous for in Hurricane Harvey.
Evidence A (Summary or Quotation of Facts, Research, Expert View, etc.)	Houston Chief of Police Art "Acevedo was among those who said the state's mythic toughness would help Texans soldier on. 'It's sad,' Chief Acevedo said, in a live video posted to Twitter. 'It breaks your heart for our city and our state. But it's Texas. We'll get through'" (Julie Turkewitz et al, New York Times, August 27, 2017).
Reasoning (Analyzing How the Evidence Proves the Argumentative Claim)	The police chief of the city centrally impacted by Harvey is in a good position to see the "mythic toughness" and pioneering spirit of the individuals in his community. He could have appealed to the media to ask for more help for his department and city, but instead he reflected to them his community's living up to the values that they hold dear. And self-reliance is a value shared by America itself, even if Texans like to think of themselves as exemplars.
Evidence B (Summary or Quotation of Facts, Research, Expert View, etc.)	"Indeed, the idea of Texans as self-reliant and a breed apart is one shared across the political spectrum [in Texas]. 'It's an independent, pioneering people -- that may sound corny, but it's true,' [Michael] Berry[, a libertarian radio talk-show host,] said. 'That's the positive spirit of it. We've got to rally among ourselves, to take care of ourselves,' said Jim Hightower, a Democratic former agriculture commissioner and supporter of Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont" in the 2016 presidential election (Richard Fausset, New York Times, September 4, 2017).
Reasoning (Analyzing How the Evidence Proves the Argumentative Claim)	Even in these times of intense political polarization, Harvey has reminded all Texans of all viewpoints from across the political spectrum that self-reliance and the toughness of their pioneer forebears has deep roots within them. In this way, Hurricane Harvey has been an opportunity to demonstrate to the country and to the world that Americans are continuing to live up to their values when it counts most.