



# Video Games: Should Schools Offer Gaming as an Elective?

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Pop Culture  
Grades 6-8



## Introduction

Professional gamers...this is a new trend in jobs and careers! With many of these gamers as role models for the youth today, should we be offering more electives in school for students who want to learn more about video games and gaming? This is a great prompt to use as a class debate for an extension activity.

## Learning Objectives

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.1.A](#). Introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly.

## Materials Needed

- [Pre-writing graphic organizer](#)
- [Writer's checklist](#)
- Additional activities
- Chromebook/tablet/computer

## Procedure

1. Have a class discussion about video games and their impact on society. See how many students play video games and estimate about how much time students play video games per week.
2. These are articles about video games and gamers. Make sure to preview all before assigning, as websites and contents change frequently. Make sure the information is appropriate for the grade level you are teaching.
  - [How to Become a Professional Video Gamer](#)
  - [Professional Gamer](#)
  - [What Does it mean to be a Gamer?](#)
  - [Association Between Video Gaming and Psychological Functioning](#)
  - [Playing Video Games Can Help Your Career](#)
  - [What it is Actually Like Playing Video Games for a Living?](#)
  - [Game Designing](#)
  - [Should there be a gaming class as an elective?](#)
  - [Can Video Games Get Kids into College?](#)

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3. Have students fill in a graphic organizer to organize ideas and determine whether or not they believe gaming should be offered as an elective in schools.
4. Have students begin to create their essays. The first part will be the introduction. In the introduction, students should include:
  - The introduction should “hook” or grab the attention of the reader.
  - Students should state their argument in the opening paragraph.
5. Have students create the body of their essays. There should be at least three paragraphs of supporting details.
  - These should all be statements that support the student's opinion.
  - Include a topic sentence in each paragraph.
  - Each supporting detail should be backed with facts to support the argument. Students can use any of the links provided, as well as any additional facts they find.
  - Opinions and personal views should be included throughout, but must be supported with factual evidence.
6. Have students create the conclusion for their essay.
  - Have a topic sentence that restates the argument and facts that support it.
  - Have a strong last sentence, or “clincher”, in the essay. This is what will leave a lasting impression on the readers.
7. Teachers will conference with students as they create their writing piece. If teachers do not wish to conference with the students, they can monitor the work being completed and help on an as-needed basis.
8. When the rough draft of the essay is completed, students should have one to two peers edit the persuasive essay and make the appropriate changes.
9. Students will make the final edits and create the final draft of their essay.

**Extension Activity:** Students can participate in a class debate about whether or not they feel gaming should be offered as an elective in schools. It will be an interesting topic for the students, and you will hear many great arguments.

### Evaluation

You should use the writing rubric that your district requires to grade the writing. You can use the rough draft, the checklist, and the debate as classwork grades.