



Cour
Pénale
Internationale

International
Criminal
Court



Your views on the ICC

The student as a
columnist

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OBJECTIVES

- strengthen writing/reporting skills
- learn how to develop an argument/draft a report
- learn to be accountable for their own ideas and claims
- develop critical-thinking abilities
- become familiar with the ICC's activities

LESSON OUTLINE

Ask students to write a 500-word essay. The essay can:

- address a specific ICC case or situation (see Lesson 2)
- address one of the in-class debates (see Lesson 3)
- address broader principles that are related to the ICC's activities (e.g. international justice, human rights, crimes of concern for the international community, fighting impunity, etc.)

Explain to the students they have two options for writing their essay: they can write an essay in the style of an opinion column or of news reporting. Illustrate to the students the main features of these two writing types: argumentative writing aims at persuading the reader of the validity or desirability of the writer's claim compared to other (counter)claims, whereas news-style reporting aims at informing



the reader, as objectively as possible, of a certain idea or event. To further clarify these two different approaches, explain to the students that they will need to choose between becoming visible or invisible as the author of the text, between justifying their own statements and recounting facts and other people's opinions.

Depending on the type of essay that they choose to write, students will learn to develop different skills. The following sample templates include a breakdown of the main elements generally found in each text type and adapted to the specific issues dealt with in this specific lesson:

TEMPLATE FOR NEWS-STYLE REPORTING: THE STUDENT AS A REPORTER

- Introduce the topic
- State the first issue raised by the moderator during the debate
- Recount the main views expressed
- State the second issue raised by the moderator during the debate
- Recount the main views expressed
- State the third issue raised by the moderator during the debate
- Recount the main views expressed
- Conclude by summarizing the major opinion trends in your class
- Provide your own explanation of the reasons for the observed opinion trends

TEMPLATE FOR ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING: THE STUDENT AS A COLUMNIST

- Introduce the topic
- State briefly your claim or opinion
- Provide information or examples to support your claim
- State any counterclaim or opposing views
- Acknowledge any valid points in the counterclaim but use the information or examples you mentioned earlier to highlight that your claim is stronger or more desirable
- Conclude by restating your claim and briefly summarizing your supporting information or examples