

*Step Up to Writing*  
Grade 6

**Argument Writing  
Baseline Assessment**

**Directions:**

Do not begin until you are told to do so. Once your instructor tells you to begin, you may use the time provided to complete all steps below.

1. Read and review the sources provided for this task on page 2.
2. Answer the questions on page 3 about the sources provided.
3. Read the related writing prompt and directions on page 4 and write your response.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

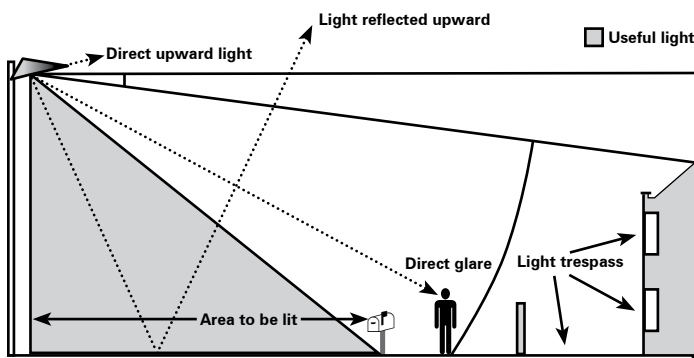
## Should Communities Control Light Pollution?

### Source #1

**What is light pollution?** Sometimes artificial light shines where it is not wanted or helpful. The result can be light pollution. One example is **glare** that makes it difficult to see your surroundings. Another is **light trespass** where lights shine into a neighbor's yard and windows. A different type is **sky glow** where city lights shine or reflect upward. Sky glow and other forms of light pollution can make it difficult to see stars and other features of the night sky.

### Source #2

#### Examples of Light Pollution



### Source #3

**Artificial light affects wildlife.** Research shows that too much light can alter the behavior of animals that are nocturnal—active at night. It can change the migration patterns of birds and feeding habits of bats and other animals. Lights along ocean beaches can confuse endangered sea turtles. Studies show new hatchlings may crawl inland rather than to the sea. Chad Moore, Night Sky Program manager with the National Park Service, says: “Not protecting the night will destroy the habitat of many animals.”

### Source #4

**Light pollution is wasted energy.** The International Dark Sky Association (IDA) estimates 30 percent of street lighting shines upward where it does no good. According to IDA, this wasted light adds up to \$2.2 billion worth of wasted electricity each year.

### Source #5

**People should be able to light their property in ways they like.** Some communities are passing laws limiting how people can light their yards and property. This raises concerns about property rights. Property owners may be fined or punished for using the lights they want for their own homes and businesses. In 2012, citizens in Bandon, Oregon, signed a petition against such a law. The campaign noted: “This issue concerns the right of the individual to choose how best to protect their own property and how to provide for their own safety and comfort.”

### Source #6

**Businesses need bright lights.** Restaurants, gas stations, and other businesses need lights to attract customers at night. Business owners would lose business if laws restrict their lighting. *The Washington Times* talked to Shakir Mallick, a restaurant manager. According to the *Times*, Mallick’s restaurant “usually earns between \$1,400 and \$1,600 a night between 9:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. He said: ‘If I had to turn off my signs, it would dramatically hurt my business.’”

### Source #7

**Upgrading lighting fixtures is expensive.** The City of Oakland, California, replaced more than 20,000 streetlights with LED lighting in 2013. The project cost \$15 million. The city planned to pay for the change through savings on electricity costs.

For a complete bibliography of sources, see the Teacher Edition.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions****Directions:** Refer back to the sources on page 2. Fill in the correct bubble to answer the questions.

1. Based on source #1, what would be an example of light trespass?
  - Ⓐ car lights moving on a highway
  - Ⓑ spotlights shining into the sky for the grand opening of a store
  - Ⓒ stadium lights shining in a bedroom window
  - Ⓓ a bright streetlight that makes it difficult to see
  
2. According to source #4, what is the yearly electricity cost of wasted street lighting?
  - Ⓐ 30 percent
  - Ⓑ \$2.2 billion
  - Ⓒ \$1,400 to \$1,600 each night
  - Ⓓ \$15 million
  
3. According to source #3, how do artificial lights along beaches endanger sea turtles?
  - Ⓐ Hatchlings are blinded by bright lights.
  - Ⓑ Bright lights attract female sea turtles to the wrong beaches.
  - Ⓒ Hatchlings may crawl toward inland lights instead of to the sea.
  - Ⓓ Nocturnal hunters can more easily see and kill hatchlings.
  
4. Based on source #1, what is the **most likely** reason that astronomers and other stargazers want to limit light pollution?
  - Ⓐ Astronomers get a better view of the night sky without light pollution.
  - Ⓑ Astronomers do not like to waste electricity.
  - Ⓒ Astronomers are very sensitive to bright, artificial lights.
  - Ⓓ Bright lights change the movement of stars and planets.
  
5. Based on source #7, readers can infer that the City of Oakland expects that
  - Ⓐ utilities will begin charging a lower price for electricity.
  - Ⓑ other cities in California will not update their lighting fixtures.
  - Ⓒ more than 20,000 streetlights will not be enough to light the city.
  - Ⓓ the new lights will waste less electricity.

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**Prompt:** Write a short essay arguing for or against rules to limit light pollution. Use evidence from at least two of the sources to support your position.

- Directions:**
1. Plan in the space provided below.
  2. Draft on the page(s) titled: DRAFT.
  3. Prepare final copy on the page(s) titled: FINAL DRAFT.

**Checklist:** Use this checklist to do your best writing. The items below directly relate to essay scoring:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write a clear introduction with topic sentence that states the claim.            | <input type="checkbox"/> Use precise word choice and varied sentence structures.                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Present reasons and evidence in logical order, with transitions.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Use appropriate formal style and standard English.                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support your claim with important ideas and details from the sources.            | <input type="checkbox"/> Revise for organization and content.                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write a conclusion that supports the claim and follows from the ideas presented. | <input type="checkbox"/> Edit for proper conventions, grammar/usage, punctuation, and spelling. |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Proofread for a final copy.  |

**Planning Space:** Use the following space to plan your writing.



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