

<b>Title:</b> Making a Top 5 List	<b>Grades:</b> 6th-8th Grades
<b>Content:</b> English Language Arts/Social Studies/Social Emotional	<b>Duration:</b> 30 minutes each for three days (rough draft/revision/final copy)

**Standard:**

- **W.6-8.1:** Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
  - Introduce claim(s).
  - Organize the reasons and evidence logically.
  - Support claim(s) with logical reasoning.
- **HGSS: 1:** Choices have consequences.
  - 5:** Relationships between people, place, idea, and environments are dynamic.

**Objective:** Students will develop, create, and rank a Top Five list on a topic of their choice written to an audience of their choice.

**Resources Needed:**

- *Article: "FIVE WAYS to Get Fired from Your After-School Job"* (See below.)
- Paper/Computer for writing

**Introduction:**

One of the most commonly encountered nonfiction types in magazines, newspapers, and especially online is the Top Five or Top Ten list. You've heard of them: the top ten ways to get a girlfriend, the top five places to vacation, the top ten ways to lose weight, etc. The best ones seem to combine unexpected or amusing list items with short reasons describing each item and its ranking.

Top Lists are easy to write because they follow a simple, fixed formula. You come up with a number of interesting items and then write a short, entertaining explanation of each one.

At this juncture of your life, ideas for Top 5 or 10 lists abound! Think of all the issues teens deal with! Think of social media! Think of being quarantined due to Covid19; that's history in the making! Also, your personal interests, likes, dislikes, passions, etc. can all lead you to great ideas!

**Steps:**

- To get you started, **read** the top five list, entitled "*FIVE WAYS to Get Fired from Your After-School Job*" (*attached at bottom of lesson*). Notice how the author uses sarcasm to portray truth. It's hilarious, while also teaching great and true lessons!
- **Brainstorm a list of five or more topics** about which you could write a Top 5 (or Top 10, if you prefer) list. Consider who you want your audience to be: other teens, boys, girls, politicians, parents, etc.

- **Choose one** of your topics, and **begin listing** possible list items: as many as you can.
- Next, **narrow down your list items** to the five best, remembering to choose reasons your audience will find interesting/entertaining.
- **Write** a short explanation for each reason, typically 2-3 sentences. (*Refer to the example below*)
- **Determine the ranking** of each item. You could start with number 5 and count down to 1, saving the best for last, or write 1-5 like the example. Your reader should be able to tell you have organized the items to make your message clear and powerful.
- **Write an introduction paragraph** to introduce your topic/point to your audience. (See example.) Then, neatly **write or type your Top 5 List**.
- Share this copy with a couple of friends or family members to get suggestions. Make any desired **revisions**, and prepare your **final copy**, turning it in to your teacher as directed.

**Finished Product:** A Top Five list that will inform, entertain, and maybe even persuade.

**Adaptations:**

If you are struggling to get started, here are a few ideas:

Childhood Events	Modes of Transportation	Sports Figures
Activities	Books You've Read	Places to Visit
Jobs in Your Community	Things People Don't Know About You	Quarantine Necessities



See example below.

## FIVE WAYS to Get fired from Your After-School Job

Roger Vector, WrapUp Media

These days, 26% of teenagers have after-school jobs, and 32% have part- or full-time jobs during the summer. These numbers are actually record lows; as recently as 1979, almost 60% of teens participated in the workforce sometime during the year.

The bottom line: for young people, getting and keeping a part-time job is harder than ever. Increased competition from older workers remaining in the workforce and declining numbers of entry level jobs mean that if you can snag a job, you'd better protect it carefully.

Reviewing some prominent career-building websites, we discovered several common reasons for teens getting fired from after-school or summer jobs. If you want to get bounced, try these behaviors.

- 1. Show up late.** Employers schedule workers for when they are most needed, so when you're late it's immediately disruptive—especially for the people who have to pick up your slack. Plus, many bosses simply feel that promptness is the most basic, nonnegotiable job skill. Be five minutes early every time.
- 2. Be a slob.** Even if you work at the Oil Change Pit, there is some standard of dress that you will either be told or can determine by looking at coworkers. If you have a uniform, wear it. If clothing is by choice, dress like the people one step above you in the organization, to signal your readiness for a raise and a promotion.
- 3. Diss your boss.** Sometimes in entry-level jobs you'll have bosses who are inexperienced, insecure, or not as smart as you. But they are still your boss, and rolling your eyes to their face or joining in break room gossip will not advance your career. For an extra-quick exit, try trashing your supervisor on Instagram.
- 4. Play with your phone during work.** Checkers in big-box stores, ushers in movie theaters, day camp counselors, and restaurant servers can earn a pink slip if they get caught texting when they should be taking care of customers. Yes, your job does have boring stretches—so how are you supposed to pass the time? Get to know your coworkers better instead of texting your posse outside.
- 5. "Borrow" stuff.** Most employers have some items lying around—paper clips, French fries, or merchandise—that you might like to bring home, using your five-finger discount. Be advised that this is often a firing offense, and some employers will also dial 911.

End of assignment.