

Name _____

Period _____

“Flowers for Algernon”/ *Awakenings*

Persuasive/Argument Essay

Introductory Paragraph Guidelines

- 1. Introduce the topic with a general statement.** Example: Sometimes people will undergo extreme measures to try to improve their health and their lives. As a result, they will meet many different successes and failures.
- 2. Introduce the story and movie. Include the author and director’s respective names. Provide a brief discussion of the situation in the story and movie.** Example: This idea is shown in the story, “Flowers for Algernon,” by Daniel Keyes, and Penny Marshall’s movie, *Awakenings*. In both the story and movie, the characters attempt to improve their lives with the assistance of science. In “Flowers for Algernon,” Charlie Gordon has an experimental surgery to triple his intelligence. In *Awakenings*, Leonard Lowe and a group of patients are given an experimental drug, L-Dopa, with the hope of helping to awaken them from the effects of the disease, encephalitis lethargica.
- 3. Transition to the argument/thesis. Your thesis should set up your argument. It should state what you will be proving in the essay as a whole (your overall, general position on the topic).** Example: The evidence in both the story and the movie, strongly proves that it was more beneficial for Charlie, Leonard, and the other patients to have had the experimental surgery and medicine.
- 4. Remember, you should not be using “I”. Don’t write, “I think,” “I know,” “I’m sure that,” “I’m going to prove,” “In my opinion,” “I know this because,” etc. I know it might be tempting to do so, but stay clear of the “I”.** Example: Instead of writing, *I think it is true that it was beneficial for Charlie Gordon to have the surgery*, just take out the *I think* and write, *It was beneficial for Charlie Gordon to have the surgery*.
- 5. Put it all together.**

Sometimes people will undergo extreme measures to try to improve their health and their lives. As a result, they will meet many different successes and failures. This idea is shown in the story, “Flowers for Algernon,” by Daniel Keyes, and Penny Marshall’s movie, *Awakenings*. In both the story and movie, the characters attempt to improve their lives with the assistance of science. In

