Graphic Organizer: **Analyzing Appeals to Logos (reason)**

(from Hixenbaugh 2013)

As you read, collect your thoughts in the table below. You may not need every box. Or you may need more.

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| **1. What facts are used to support the argument? List any here** | |
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| **2. Analyzing Facts:** What sources do these facts draw on? List the sources. What facts are missing from the argument? Do any of the facts seem unreliable or incomplete? | |
| Specific examples |  |
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| **3. Analyzing logic:** How are the facts used to promote an argument? For each fact or group of facts, identify any unspoken premises and any claims related to the facts. | |
| Facts | Premises and Claims |
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Now, the fun part! Write a short essay (100-200 words) analyzing the author’s appeals to reason using the “Claim, Evidence, Analysis” model. Use the following questions to help you make a claim. Then describe your evidence, and analyze your evidence to show how it supports your claim.

* What implicit or unspoken premises underlie the author’s reasoning?
* Are there any weaknesses in the reasoning of the author – in the association between the major premise, the minor premise, and the claim?

Do not feel pressured to repeat all of the information you have captured on this paper. Spend your time exploring the appeals you consider most prominent, and make sure you analyze them completely.

[**Texas Voter ID Law Discriminates Against Women, Students and Minorities**](http://www.thenation.com/blog/176792/texas-voter-id-law-discriminates-against-women-students-and-minorities)

[***Ari Berman***](http://www.thenation.com/authors/ari-berman)***on October 23, 2013 - 10:06 AM ET; The Nation***

Texas’s new voter ID law got off to a rocky start this week as early voting began for state constitutional amendments. The law was previously [blocked as discriminatory](http://www.thenation.com/blog/169652/federal-court-texas-voter-id-law-violates-voting-rights-act" \t "_blank) by the federal courts under the Voting Rights Act in 2012, until the [Supreme Court](http://www.thenation.com/section/supreme-court?lc=int_mb_1001) invalidated Section 4 of the VRA in June. (The Department of Justice has [filed suit](http://www.thenation.com/blog/176792/=" \t "_blank) against the law under Section 2 of the VRA.) Now we are seeing the disastrous ramifications of the Supreme Court’s decision.

Based on Texas’ own data, 600,000 to 800,000 registered voters don’t have the government-issued ID needed to cast a ballot, with Hispanics 46 to 120 percent more likely than whites to lack an ID. But a much larger segment of the electorate, particularly women, will be impacted by the requirement that a voter’s ID be “[substantially similar](http://blog.beaumontenterprise.com/bayou/2013/10/23/substantially-similar-name-raises-questions-about-texas-voter-id-law/" \t "_blank)” to their name on the voter registration rolls. According to a 2006 [study](http://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/citizens-without-proof" \t "_blank) by the Brennan Center for Justice, a third of all women have citizenship documents that do not match their current legal name.

Just yesterday, this happened (via [Rick Hasen](http://electionlawblog.org/?p=56195" \t "_blank)), from [KiiiTV](http://www.kiiitv.com/story/23761660/voter-id-law-may-cause-problems-for-women-using-maiden-names) in South Texas:

“What I have used for voter registration and for identification for the last 52 years was not sufficient yesterday when I went to vote,” 117th District Court Judge Sandra Watts said.

Watts has voted in every election for the last forty-nine years. The name on her driver’s license has remained the same for fifty-two years, and the address on her voter registration card or driver’s license hasn’t changed in more than two decades. So imagine her surprise when she was told by voting officials that she would have to sign a “voters affidavit” affirming she was who she said she was.

“Someone looked at that and said, ‘Well, they’re not the same,’” Watts said.

The difference? On the driver’s license, Judge Watts’s maiden name is her middle name. On her voter registration, it’s her actual middle name. That was enough under the new, more strict voter fraud law, to send up a red flag.

“This is the first time I have ever had a problem voting,” Watts said.

The disproportionate impact of the law on women voters could be a major factor in upcoming Texas elections, especially now that Wendy Davis is running for governor in 2014.

Moreover, the state is doing very little to make sure that voters who don’t have an ID can get one. As I mentioned, 600–800,000 registered voters don’t have an acceptable voter ID, but according to the *[Dallas Morning News](http://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/editorials/20131020-editorial-nov.-5-election-will-test-texas-new-voter-id-rules.ece?nclick_check=1" \t "_blank)* “only 41 of the new cards were issued by DPS [Department of Public Safety] as of last week.”

Getting a valid photo ID in Texas can be far more difficult than one assumes. To obtain one of the government-issued IDs now needed to vote, voters must first pay for underlying documents to confirm their identity, the cheapest option being a birth certificate for $22 (otherwise known as a “poll tax”); there are no DMV offices in eighty-one of 254 counties in the state, with some voters needing to travel up to 250 miles to the closest location. Counties with a significant Hispanic population are less likely to have a DMV office, while Hispanic residents in such counties are twice as likely as whites to not have the new voter ID (Hispanics in Texas are also twice as likely as whites to not have a car). “A law that forces poorer citizens to choose between their wages and their franchise unquestionably denies or abridges their right to vote,” a federal court wrote last year when it blocked the law.

Texas has set up mobile voter ID units in twenty counties to help people obtain an ID, but has issued new IDs to only [twenty voters](http://m.news-journal.com/mobile/news/local/handful-of-residents-use-voter-id-mobile-unit/article_34947410-0a29-5ffd-969e-2840a86fc41a.html" \t "_blank) at the sites so far.

Supporters of the voter ID law, such as [Governor Rick Perry](http://thinkprogress.org/justice/2012/03/26/451586/texas-fewer-than-five-voter-impersonation-cases/" \t "_blank), argue that it’s necessary to stop the rampant menace of voter fraud. But there’s no evidence that voter impersonation fraud is a problem in Texas. According to the comprehensive [News21 database](http://votingrights.news21.com/interactive/election-fraud-database/), there has been only one successful conviction for voter impersonation—I repeat, only one—since 2000.

Texas has the distinction of being one of the few states that allows you to vote with a concealed weapons permit, but not a student ID. Provisions like these suggest that the law was aimed less at stopping voter fraud and more at stopping the changing demographics of the state. Based on what we’re seeing thus far, the law might better be described as the Republican Self-Preservation Act.

*Ari Berman*[*discusses*](http://www.thenation.com/blog/176421/justice-department-challenging-north-carolinas-extreme-voter-suppression-law)*the DOJ’s response to North Carolina’s new voter supression laws.*

**Voter ID laws are good for democracy**

Op-Ed: The Los Angeles Times

*Without a personal identification card issued by some level of government, you are a second-class citizen.*

August 12, 2012|By Stephan and Abigail Thernstrom

Without a personal identification card issued by some level of government, you are a second-class citizen. You cannot board an airplane, ride an Amtrak train, buy a six-pack of beer or a pack of cigarettes, open a checking account, enter many public and some private office buildings or even attend an NAACP convention without proving that you are who you say you are. You cannot even qualify for means-tested public support programs such as Medicaid without valid identification.

These requirements have provoked strikingly little objection from the American public. No one argues that it is grossly discriminatory to deprive people without picture IDs access to this wide range of places, programs and activities.

But when it comes to voting, that is exactly the argument. The Democratic Party, the attorney general of the United States and a vocal chorus from the civil rights community are waging war on voter photo ID laws enacted recently in 10 states, laws they see as part of a new voter suppression movement.

In their view, measures ostensibly designed to limit the franchise to people who are U.S. citizens and legal residents of the jurisdiction in which they seek to vote have the real purpose of disfranchising poor people in general and especially poor African Americans and Latinos.

The charge leveled against photo ID requirements has a particularly nasty echo: It is, critics say, no different than the Jim Crow poll tax used in Southern states until the mid-1960s to keep blacks from the voting booth. But the Supreme Court has addressed that issue. In a 2008 decision upholding Indiana's voter ID law, the opinion of the court, written by Justice John Paul Stevens — certainly no conservative — dismissed the poll tax argument on the grounds that the state had a legitimate interest in preventing voter fraud. Five justices agreed with him.

Critics of ID requirements assert that voting is special — a right, not a privilege, and therefore not comparable to things like driving a car or gaining access to the NAACP convention. But the distinction is not so clear. Medicaid is arguably a right for those who are income eligible.

And rights are not absolute. Nine-year-olds cannot vote; nor can illegal immigrants. An estimated 1 million illegal immigrants live in Texas today. If many of them turned up at the polls and were able to vote in the absence of a requirement for government-issued identification, the right of all Texas citizens to choose their representatives might be seriously compromised.

Many of the voter ID laws will first be tested in the 2012 presidential election. For now, no one can say with great certainty how they will affect minority and low-income political participation, and that's a question that deserves further study.

New York University's distinctly liberal Brennan Center for Justice recently issued a report claiming that 11% of voting-age citizens who live in the states that have passed voter ID laws currently lack valid identification credentials. The Brennan Center also marshals evidence that getting IDs could be difficult for these mostly poor, mostly minority and often elderly citizens. But how many of those who lack an ID actually voted in the past?

Over the last four presidential elections, nearly 40% of American citizens eligible to cast a ballot did not bother to do so. It is reasonable to surmise that a high proportion of the people who had not taken the trouble to get a government-issued photo ID may be among that huge group of no-shows. If they weren't going to vote anyway, new ID laws wouldn't affect their behavior.

In the case of Indiana, whose voter ID law was in effect for the 2008 presidential election, there is some data about participation. That was a very good year for Democrats in general, but Democratic turnout rose more in Indiana, with its ID law in force, than in any other state. Georgia, which also had a new voter ID law in place that year for the first time, also had a huge jump in turnout, almost all of it from Democratic voters.

There are better and worse ID laws, and it seems obvious that the requisite proof of identity should not be needlessly burdensome to get; the process should be made as convenient as possible. The Texas Department of Public Safety, for example, provides free election identification cards to citizens who request them. Every state should make acquiring an ID equally easy.

President Ben Jealous of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People has blasted voter ID laws and called for a "high tide of registration and mobilization and motivation and protection." If, indeed, the voter ID laws inspire drives to register citizens and get them to the polls (and get them photo IDs), won't America be better off? More people will gain the freedom to watch an argument in a court of law, board a train or a plane, and even buy a bottle of Scotch. Democracy will have been enhanced. Sensible civil rights advocates might consider that, and join the drive for ID laws.

*Stephan Thernstrom is a professor of history emeritus at Harvard University. Abigail Thernstrom is vice chairwoman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Her most recent book is "Voting Rights — and Wrongs: The Elusive Quest for Racially Fair Elections."*