

Name: _____ Date: _____

Argument Writing Checklist

	Grade 8	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!
	Structure			
Overall	I laid out an argument about a topic/text and made it clear why my particular argument is important and valid. I stayed fair to those who might disagree with me by describing how my position is one of several and making it clear where my position stands in relation to others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lead	After hooking the reader, I provided specific context for my own as well as another position(s), introduced my position, and oriented readers to the overall line of argument I planned to develop.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transitions	I used transitions to lead the reader across parts of the text and to help the reader note how parts of the text relate back to earlier parts. I used phrases such as <i>now some argue, while this may be true, it is also the case that, despite this, as stated earlier, taken as a whole, this is significant because, the evidence points to, and and by doing so.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ending	In the conclusion, I described the significance of my argument for stakeholders, or offered additional insights, implications, questions, or challenges.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organization	I organized claims, counterclaims, reasons, and evidence into sections and clarified how sections are connected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I created an organizational structure that supports a reader's growing understanding across the whole of my argument, arranging the sections to build on each other in a logical, compelling fashion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Development			
Elaboration	I brought out the aspects of the argument that were most significant to my audience and to my overall purpose(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I incorporated trustworthy and significant sources and explained if and when a source seemed problematic.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I analyzed the relevance of the reasons and evidence for my claims as well as for the counterclaim(s) and helped the reader understand what each position is saying. I made sure all of my analysis led my readers to follow my line of argument.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Craft	I intended to affect my reader in particular ways—to make the reader think, realize, or feel a particular way—and I chose language to do that.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I consistently used comparisons, analogies, vivid examples, anecdotes, or other rhetorical devices to help readers follow my thinking and grasp the meaning and significance of a point or a piece of evidence.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I varied my tone to match the different purposes of different sections of my argument.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Argument Writing Checklist (continued)

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	Conventions			
Spelling	I spelled technical vocabulary and literary vocabulary accurately. I spelled materials in citations according to sources, and spelled citations accurately.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Punctuation and Sentence Structure	I used different sentence structures to achieve different purposes throughout my argument.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I used verb tenses that shift when needed (as in when moving from a citation back to my own writing), deciding between active and passive voice where appropriate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I used internal punctuation effectively, including the use of ellipses to accurately insert excerpts from sources.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>