

CCSS Argumentative Writing— Grades 6-8

Specific language pulled directly from the Common Core State Standards is highlighted in pink. A student-friendly/ teacher-friendly interpretation of what that standard means is above/below the standard.

Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

Reveal a debatable topic. Then explain the side you think is “right.”

Your side

Give *many, different* reasons that explain why you’re right.

Back up your reasons with multiple facts, details, and examples.

Explain your side of the issue.

Respectfully point out the strengths & weaknesses of BOTH “your” side and the “other” side. (Of course, ultimately have more/stronger reasons for “your” side.)

Introduce claim(s), acknowledge alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.

List your key points so that they fit together, connect to one another, and make sense to the reader.

Proof provided is “on point.” It addresses the topic specifically.

Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.

Your side is stronger when you use true and correct information/research to prove you’re right.

You have to know a lot about the topic/subject in order to have an opinion about it.

Transition from one reason/idea to the next one.

Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence.

The transitions you use help the reader know how the different points/ideas are connected together. Are they sequential? *First, Second, Third*, etc. Do they build on one another? *Therefore, Consequently, Furthermore*, etc. Are they contrasting? *However, Although*, etc.

Establish and maintain a formal style.

Sound like an official expert— not a teenager.
Write to a general audience— not any one person.
Use the correct grammar and traditional conventions. Be as proper as possible.

Write a single-sentence or multi-sentence ending.

Provide a concluding statement or section that follows and supports the arguments presented.

The ending should parallel “your side” and the argument you’ve been stating in the piece.