

Name: _____ Date: _____

Argument Writing Checklist

	Grade 7	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!
	Structure			
Overall	I laid out a well-supported argument and made it clear that this argument is part of a bigger conversation about a topic/text. I acknowledged positions on the topic or text that might disagree with my own position, but I still showed why my position makes sense.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lead	I interested the reader in my argument and helped them to understand the backstory behind it. I gave the backstory in a way that got the reader ready to see my point.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I made it clear to readers what my piece will argue and forecasted the parts of my argument.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transitions	I used transitions to link the parts of my argument. The transitions help the reader follow from part to part and make it clear when I am stating a claim or counterclaim, giving a reason, or offering or analyzing evidence. These transitions include terms such as <i>as the text states, this means, another reason, some people may say, but, nevertheless, and on the other hand.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ending	In my conclusion, I reinforced and built on the main point(s) in a way that makes the entire text a cohesive whole. The conclusion may reiterate how the support for my claim outweighed the counterclaim(s), restate the main points, respond to them, or highlight their significance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organization	The parts of my piece are arranged purposefully to suit my purpose and to lead readers from one claim or counterclaim, reason, or piece of evidence to another.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I used topic sentences, transitions, and formatting (where appropriate) to clarify the structure of the piece and to highlight my main points.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Development			
Elaboration	I included varied kinds of evidence such as facts, quotations, examples, and definitions. I analyzed or explained the reasons and evidence, showing how they fit with my claim(s) and built my argument.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I consistently incorporated and cited trustworthy sources.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I wrote about another possible position or positions—a different claim or claims about this subject—and explained why the evidence for my position outweighed the counterclaim(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I worked to make my argument compelling as well as understandable. I brought out why it mattered and why the audience should care about it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Craft	I used words purposefully to affect meaning and tone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I chose precise words and used metaphors, images, or comparisons to explain what I meant.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I included domain-specific, technical vocabulary relevant to my argument and audience and defined these terms when appropriate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I used a formal tone, but varied it appropriately to engage the reader.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Argument Writing Checklist (continued)

	Grade 7	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!
	Conventions			
Spelling	I matched the spelling of technical vocabulary to that found in resources and text evidence. I spelled material in citations correctly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Punctuation and Sentence Structure	I varied my sentence structure, sometimes using simple and sometimes using complex sentence structure.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I used internal punctuation appropriately within sentences and when citing sources, including commas, dashes, parentheses, colons, and semicolons.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>