

Name: _____

Date: _____

Argument Writing Checklist

	Grade 6	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!	Grade 7	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!
	Structure				Structure			
Overall	I explained the topic/text and staked out a position that can be supported by a variety of trustworthy sources. Each part of my text helped build my argument, and led to a conclusion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 wrote an introduction to interest readers and help them understand and care about a topic or text. I thought backwards between the piece and the introduction to make sure that the introduction fit with the whole.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>
	Not only did I clearly state my claim, I also told my readers how my text would unfold.	<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 help readers understand how the different parts of my piece fit together to explain and support my argument.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>
	I used transitions to help connect claim(s), reasons, and evidence, and to imply relationships such as when material exemplifies, adds on to, is similar to, explains, is a result of, or contrasts. I use transitions such as <i>for instance, in addition, one reason, furthermore, according to, this evidence suggests, and thus we can say that.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Argument Writing Checklist (continued)

	Grade 6	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!	Grade 7	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!
Ending	In my conclusion, I restated the important points and offered a final insight or implication for readers to consider. The ending strengthened the overall argument.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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	I organized my argument into sections: I arranged reasons and evidence purposefully, leading readers from one claim or reason to another.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>
	The order of the sections and the internal structure of each section made sense.	<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				Development			
Elaboration	I included and arranged a variety of evidence such as facts, quotations, examples, and definitions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 used trusted sources and information from experts and gave the sources credit.	<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 worked to explain how the reasons and evidence I gave supported my claim(s) and strengthened my argument. To do this I may have referred to earlier parts of my text, summarized background information, raised questions, or highlighted possible implications.	<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"/>

Argument Writing Checklist (continued)

	Grade 6	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!	Grade 7	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!
Craft	I chose my words carefully to support my argument and to have an effect on my reader.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I used words purposefully to affect meaning and tone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I worked to include concrete details, comparisons, and/or images to convey my ideas, build my argument, and keep my reader engaged.	<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"/>
	When necessary, I explained terms to readers, providing definitions, context clues, or parenthetical explanations.	<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 made my piece sound serious.	<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"/>
	Conventions				Conventions			
Spelling	I used resources to be sure the words in my writing were spelled correctly, including returning to sources to check spelling.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 used punctuation such as dashes, colons, parentheses, and semicolons to help me include or connect information in some of my sentences.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I varied my sentence structure, sometimes using simple and sometimes using complex sentence structure.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I punctuated quotes and citations accurately.	<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"/>