

Argument Writing: Claim, Evidence & Reasoning

Write a balanced argument with a clear claim, relevant evidence, reasoning, counterpoint and appropriate conclusion.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Write a balanced argument with a clear claim, relevant evidence, reasoning, counterpoint and appropriate conclusion.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Learn the idea

1 Evidence becomes persuasive when the writer explains how it supports the claim.

2 A counterpoint represents another reasonable view fairly before responding.

3 Strong arguments avoid exaggeration, insults and evidence that is merely emotional.

Talk about it

Explain one idea in your own words. Give an example from real life, a drawing or an object if that helps.

Choose the most defensible claim for a fictional school issue.

Match evidence to claims and reject irrelevant facts.

Add reasoning between a fact and a conclusion.

Write a fair counterpoint and respectful response.

Revise an exaggerated statement such as “everyone knows” into precise language.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

Discuss a low-stakes family/class decision and practise claim-evidence-reasoning-counterpoint aloud.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Create a one-page argument brief for a positive school/community proposal, including evidence and one fair counterpoint.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. What is reasoning in an argument?

2. Does acknowledging another view weaken an argument automatically?

3. Why avoid “always” and “everyone” without evidence?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “Argument Writing: Claim, Evidence & Reasoning”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

It explains how evidence supports the claim.

2. Suggested response

No.

3. Suggested response

They overstate what can be supported.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

FINISH

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:

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