Argument Writing Cheat Sheet

& Paired Activity Cards

ARGUMENT WRITING CHEAT SHEET

PURPOSE
To inform an audience that your viewpoint deserves consideration

STRATEGY
To present information on both sides of an issue by favoring one side and casting reasonable doubt about the merits of the other side

PHRASES
While it is true that... Opponents will claim... In spite of the fact...

STYLE
Logical Professional Detached

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
Resources including claims and counterclaims are the keys to validating your position.

PERSUASIVE WRITING CHEAT SHEET

PURPOSE
To move an audience to action or to convince an audience to adopt your viewpoint

STRATEGY
To present information and opinions on one side of an issue by developing a strong connection with a target audience

PHRASES
You can help... Do you want... We deserve better...

STYLE
Persuasive Personal Emotional

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
Your feelings about the issue along with a call to action are the keys to achieving your goal.

Social Media Addiction

Getting Started
Definition or Description
What I Think Supporters Say
What I Think Opponents Say
Your Current Position
Support Oppose

Research Planning Guide
Best Evidence for Your Claim
2nd Best Evidence for Your Claim
Counterclaim/Rebuttal
Expose Opponent’s Best Argument and Weaken It

Post one
My opponent will likely claim...
Opponents will likely claim...
Some may say...

Close
What’s the Difference?

Argument Writing

vs.

Persuasive Writing

Cheat Sheet

Add cheat sheets to notebooks for easy reference!
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STYLE
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Professional
Detached

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
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PERSUASIVE WRITING CHEAT SHEET

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To move an audience to action or to convince an audience to adopt your viewpoint

STRATEGY
To present information and opinions on one side of an issue by developing a strong connection with a target audience

PHRASES
You can help...
Do you want...
We deserve better...

STYLE
Passionate
Personal
Emotional

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
Your feelings about the issue along with a call to action are the keys to achieving your goal.
Argument Topic Cards and Planning Tools for Student Pairs
Product Components

#1: Persuasive Writing and Argument Writing Cheat Sheets
Purpose: To help students understand the fundamentals of the two genres
Categories on the Cheat Sheets include: 1) Purpose, 2) Strategy, 3) Phrases, 4) Style and Essential Elements.

#2: 24 Paired Activity Planning Cards
Purpose: To give step by step support to student pairs as they plan an argument piece
Each card includes: 1) a Topic/Issue, 2) Getting Started Information, and 3) a Research Planning Guide.

#3: A Paired Activity Discussion Card
Purpose: To help students internalize the components of The Toulmin Model for Argument

Additional Materials:
Collaborative Argument Planning Sheet

Full-size versions of the Paired Activity Planning Cards
Activity Cards and Planning Tools

Mini Collaboration Guides for Student Pairs

Directions:

1) Assign a topic or allow student pairs to select an issue which has supporters and opponents.

2) Have students discuss the “Getting Started” subtopics and agree on a position.

3) Ask students to research their selected topic/issue using the “Research Planning Guide.”

4) Distribute the “Collaborative Planning Sheet.”
Collaborative Planning Sheet

Directions:
1) Student pairs will complete one “Collaborative Planning Sheet” per topic.

2) Abbreviated source information must be included (e.g. The World Around Us: Chapter 2; New York Times: 2014 online article).
Activity Topic and Planning Cards

Directions:
1) Cut out activity cards and distribute to the class.

2) Instruct students to find the partner who is in possession of the same topic/issue.

3) Follow the step by step directions on page #4.
Beauty Pageants

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Reality TV

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Dodge Ball in Gym Class

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Violent Video Games

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Parental Controls

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Corporal Punishment

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Pro Athlete Salaries

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**Fast Food Employee Wages**

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**Vegetarianism**

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**USA Soccer Obsession**

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**Textbooks vs. Tablets**

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**Animal Testing**

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**Music Plagiarism**

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Blank Topic Cards
Argument
Topic Cards:
Full Page Display
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Beauty Pageants

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Cameras in Teens’ Cars

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Toulmin’s Model for Argument Paired Activity Discussion Card
The Toulmin Model for Argument

The Toulmin Model for Argument is named after Stephen Toulmin, a 21st century philosopher, author and educator, who (in The Uses of Argument) proposed that every practical argument has six parts. The first 3 parts are necessary for all arguments; the last 3 parts add credibility to the first 3.

The components of this model include:

CLAIM + DATA + WARRANT + BACKING + REBUTTAL + QUALIFICATION

Formal Toulmin Model for Argument

1. **Claim:** State your position or claim being argued.
2. **Data:** Give one reason that will strengthen the claim.
3. **Warrant:** Answer the question: “So what?” or “Why should people support your side of the issue?”
4. **Backing:** Offer a second reason or add support to your data.
5. **Rebuttal:** State what someone who would disagree with your position might say. Then…
6. **Qualification:** …explain why someone who might disagree with you would be wrong.

Classroom Adaptation of the Toulmin Model for Argument

**Student #1:** Make a statement (*Your claim*)

**Student #2:** “What makes you believe that?”

**Student #1:** Answer the question (e.g. “If…”). (*Data*)

**Student #2:** “Why does that matter?”

**Student #1:** Answer the question (*Warrant*) AND complete the following stems:

“Some may argue that…” (*Rebuttal*)

“However…because…” (*Qualification*)

*Switch roles, arguing the opposing viewpoint OR another topic.*
You may also like:

Transition Tickets

Transition Ticket
It is true that
However,
Since
Perhaps

In my opinion
One reason
Another
I wonder why

Book Tasting

Menu

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