

Name _____

ARGUMENT WRITING KEY TERMS

reason evidence fact claim opinion counterclaim synthesize

A _____ is the _____ point, or _____, you are trying to make prove about a topic or issue.

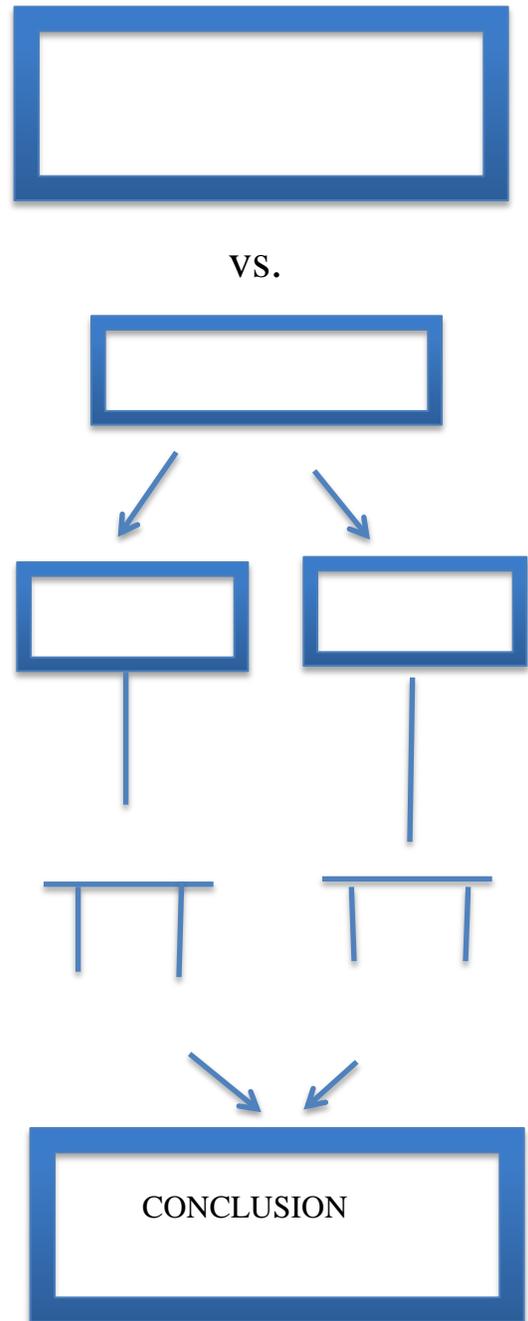
A _____ is an argument that tries to prove your claim to be _____ and that you need to mention in proving your argument.

_____ consists of the supporting _____ that back up the reasons for an argument, including _____, _____, scientific _____, _____, or your own _____.

An _____ is based on _____ choice, not _____. This is unlike a _____, which is something that can be shown to be _____.

A _____ is used as _____, along with statistics, quotes, and research to prove your _____.

To write an argument you need to _____ all the _____ and make connections between ideas to prove your _____ about a topic.



Name _____

HOW to WRITE an ARGUMENT

STEP 1: Write one sentence that states your claim.

STEP 2: Refer to the counterclaim, or other side of the argument, which you will prove wrong.

STEP 3: Identify at least 2 reasons for your claim.

STEP 4: Present evidence to support each reason, including research, statistics, or your own thinking.

STEP 5: Conclude by restating your claim and summing up the reasons that support it.

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ARGUMENT WRITING

Practice Exercise #1

Argument Question: ***Should Public Schools Offer Single Sex Education?***

Directions: The following statements are either evidence to support an argument for or against the issue of single sex education.

- A. In the space provided next to each statement, write :
- a. **E-Yes**, if it is evidence for single sex education.
 - b. **E-No**, if it is evidence against single sex education.
- B. Then at the end of the statement, write the kind of evidence the statement shows :
- c. **F**, if it is a fact that can be proven by research
 - d. **S**, if it is statistics
 - e. **Q**, if it is quotes
 - f. **T**, if it is thinking or inference based on evidence
 - g. **O**, if it is a statement of opinion

_____ 1. The Supreme Court case of Brown v. Board of Education (1954) ruled that separate is never equal in public education.

_____ 2. Researchers have found that there are biological and developmental differences between boys and girls that affect how they learn.

_____ 3. Students will not be prepared for the real world.

_____ 4. Girls are more likely to study computer science and physics; boys are more likely to study art, music, and drama.

_____ 5. Students shouldn't be forced to miss out on the advantages of single-sex education just because their schooling is funded by taxpayers.

_____ 6. These kinds of schools reinforce stereotypes, like the idea that boys are assertive and outspoken, while girls are timid and quiet.

_____ 7. In a 5th grade all-boys class in Florida a study showed that 95 percent of the boys passed the state reading exam compared to 68 percent of boys in a co-ed school.

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ARGUMENT WRITING **Practice Exercise #2**

Argument Question: ***Do Schools Have the Right to Search Student Lockers?***

Directions: The following is evidence to support an argument for or against the issue of student locker search.

- (1) In the space next to each detail, write “Y” if it is evidence to support the “Yes” argument; or “N” if it is evidence to support the “No” argument.
- (2) Then on the “Forming Evidence-Based Claims” organizer on the back of the sheet:
- *Write the details* (facts, statistics, or quotes) to support the argument
 - *Connect the details* by completing this part of the organizer
 - *Make a claim* based on your thinking about the details.

_____ This violates the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution which protects against unlawful searches and seizures of property.

_____ Lockers are school property and are assigned to students by school officials for a school year.

_____ Each day 100,000 students bring guns; 160,000 students skip school for fear of being attacked; 6,250 teachers are threatened; and 260 teachers are physically assaulted.

_____ Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference and attacks.”*

_____ In the case of *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* (1985), the Supreme Court decision states that “against the child’s interest in privacy must be set the substantial interest of teachers and administrators in maintaining discipline in the classroom and on school grounds.” **

_____ According to statistics reported by ABC News, nearly 30 percent of students are either bullies or victims of bullying, and 160,000 kids stay home from school every day because of fear of bullying.***

*. Deane, Alex. “Student Lockers, Schools’ Right to Search.” International Debate Education Association. 28 January 2010. <http://www.idebate.org/debateabs/topic_print.php?topicID=447

** . New Jersey v. T.L.O. (1984), Supreme Court Case Studies. New York: The McGraw Hill Companies.

***, *Bullying Statistics*. <http://www.bullyingstatistics.org/content/bullying_and_and_suicide.html

Name Text



FINDING DETAILS	Detail 1 (Ref.:)	Detail 2 (Ref.:)	Detail 3 (Ref.:)
I find interesting details that are <u>related</u> and that stand out to me from reading the text closely.			

CONNECTING THE DETAILS	What I think about detail 1:	What I think about detail 2:	What I think about detail 3:
I re-read and think about the details, and <u>explain</u> the connections I find among them.			
How I connect the details:			

MAKING A CLAIM	My claim about the text:
I state a conclusion that I have come to and can support with <u>evidence</u> from the text after reading and thinking about it closely.	