

The background is a detailed illustration of a desk with school supplies. On the left, there is a green notebook, a silver pen, and a yellow pencil with a pink eraser. In the center, a large sheet of lined paper is spread out. On the right, a blue spiral notebook is open, showing a page with a drawing of a butterfly, two hearts, and the word "hello" written in cursive. At the bottom right, a white and orange marker lies horizontally. The entire scene is set on a light-colored wooden desk surface.

Assessing Arguments





This icon indicates that the slide contains activities created in Flash. These activities are not editable.



This icon indicates that a slide contains audio.



This icon indicates coverage of the Language Standards.



This icon indicates that a worksheet accompanies the slide.



This icon indicates teacher's notes in the Notes field.



This icon indicates an opportunity for collaboration or group work.

College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading:

8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

Do you know how to create a persuasive argument?
Rearrange these statements to create a persuasive argument. Try different arrangements and decide which one is the most effective.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Authors write **arguments** to convince or persuade readers to take a certain point of view on a topic.

For example:

“Climate change is accelerating because of human dependence on fossil fuels.”

The author is going to argue that humans’ use of fossil fuels is the cause of accelerating climate change.

Where is the argument usually found in a paper?

A thesis statement usually summarizes the argument in the introductory paragraph of an essay or speech. It gives the reader a clear understanding of the point that the author is going to argue.





Claims are the reasons or points that the author gives to support their argument. When analyzing an argument, consider not just what the claims are, but how they support the argument.

Where might you find claims in a written argument?

Claims are often introduced in the topic sentence of each paragraph. The author then uses the body of the paragraph to support the claim.



Evidence is an important part of an argument. Watch the animation to learn why it is important and where to find it in an argument.

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Evidence needs to be **relevant** to, or on the same topic as, the claim and argument. Otherwise, readers will be confused and the argument will not be very persuasive. Decide whether each statement provided is relevant or irrelevant to the claim.

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How might irrelevant evidence confuse the reader?

How well do you understand the elements of an argument and where to find them? Match each of these elements to their purpose and where you are likely to find them in an argument.

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Read through this text about climate change. Can you identify the argument, claims and evidence that the author uses? How are they arranged?

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Press on each book to read arguments for and against women's suffrage. Think about each author's argument and identify the claims he or she uses to support the argument. Press on the highlighted text for more information. When you finish reading, discuss which argument was more persuasive and why. Use examples from the texts to support your reasons.

Press **start** to begin.

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Use this checklist when analyzing an argument to decide if the argument is well supported by relevant evidence. When you have finished analyzing an argument, ask yourself if the author has successfully persuaded you to agree with his or her point of view.

Press **start** to begin.

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