

A detailed illustration of school supplies on a wooden desk. In the top left, there is a green notebook, a silver pencil, and a yellow pencil with a pink eraser. In the top right, a blue spiral notebook is open, showing a page with a drawing of a butterfly, hearts, and the word "hello". In the bottom right, a white and orange marker lies horizontally. The background is a light-colored wooden surface with some yellow eraser shavings.

Writing to Argue





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



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



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College and Career Readiness Standards for Writing:

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.



In what situations do people argue?

What mediums are used to argue?

- radio discussions
- essays
- letters
- newspaper articles
- political debates
- leaflets.



What is the difference between writing an argument and writing a persuasive essay?



Key features of
writing

What are some key features of writing to argue? Press on the features on the left to read about them and see an example of how to use each one.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Once you have gathered the necessary information to begin your paper, you should form a solid argument that can be summarized in your thesis statement.

Press **start** to begin.

start



Read the thesis statements as they appear at the bottom of the screen. Determine if each statement is strong, too narrow or too broad.

Press **start** to begin.

start



When you are looking for sources, you want to make sure that the content is both true and accurate.

If you were writing a paper about animal cruelty, which of these sources would you use? What clues tell you that the source will probably be reliable?

a newspaper article about recent events and statistics regarding animal cruelty


a book titled *Fighting Animal Abuse*

a personal blog about dog fighting

the ASPCA's website (aspc.org)

a wiki page on animal cruelty



A blue book is partially visible in the top left corner. A large orange and white marker is positioned vertically on the left side of the page.

When you are considering using evidence, you need to make sure that it supports your claim, or stance on the topic.

Consider the following pieces of evidence and decide if they could be used in an argument **For** or **Against** children having cell phones.

Press **start** to begin.

start



Addressing counterarguments

Madison and Dominic are having a debate about whaling. Read each student's statements and discuss how they can make their arguments stronger.



Are you *for* or *against* children having cell phones? Take a poll of the whole class. After discussing the topic, take another poll to see if anyone has been persuaded to change their opinion.

Press **start** to begin.

start



You should structure your argument with an introduction and a conclusion. The structure of the rest of your argument is up to you. You can use this framework to help you structure your points.

Press **start** to begin.

start



Once you have your points organized, you need to be able to guide the reader from one point to the next in your essay.

Transition words help you move smoothly from one idea to the next. Here are a few examples:

however

although

nevertheless

alternatively

on the other hand

as for

in addition

also

similarly

Which of these words could you use to transition from introducing a counterargument to refuting it?

Do you know how to use transition words?

Try filling in the blanks with the correct transition words to complete this short essay about students having cell phones at school.

Press **start** to begin.

start



A topic sentence is the first sentence of a paragraph and tells the reader what the paragraph is about.

You will see an introductory sentence, concluding sentence and four topic sentences in the wrong order. Discuss each one and identify any transition words. Use the transition words to arrange the sentences in the most logical order.

Press **start** to begin.

start



You will see an introductory paragraph about the debate surrounding cell phones in classrooms.

Press on the highlighted parts of the paragraph to reveal more information about the improvements that the author could make and the techniques he or she has used.

Press **start** to begin.

start



Once you have drafted your argumentative essay, you can use a variety of writing techniques to make it more compelling.

READ IT is an easy way to remember some key techniques to use in your writing.

- **R**hetorical questions
- **E**motive language
- **A**lliteration
- **D**ifferent length sentences

- **I**mperatives
- **T**he rule of three



Practice writing an argument



Now that you know how to write an argument, pick one of these topics to write about, or come up with one of your own.

- 1. Should the driving age be changed to 18?
- 2. Should animal testing for medical research be allowed?
- 3. Should 16-year-olds be given the right to vote?

What is your claim? Are you for or against?

Do some research and provide relevant facts from reliable sources.

Include language techniques to make your writing more interesting, and remember to proofread!

