Boardworks Middle School English



board works

Information





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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.





How to argue



In what situations do people argue?

What mediums are used to argue?

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

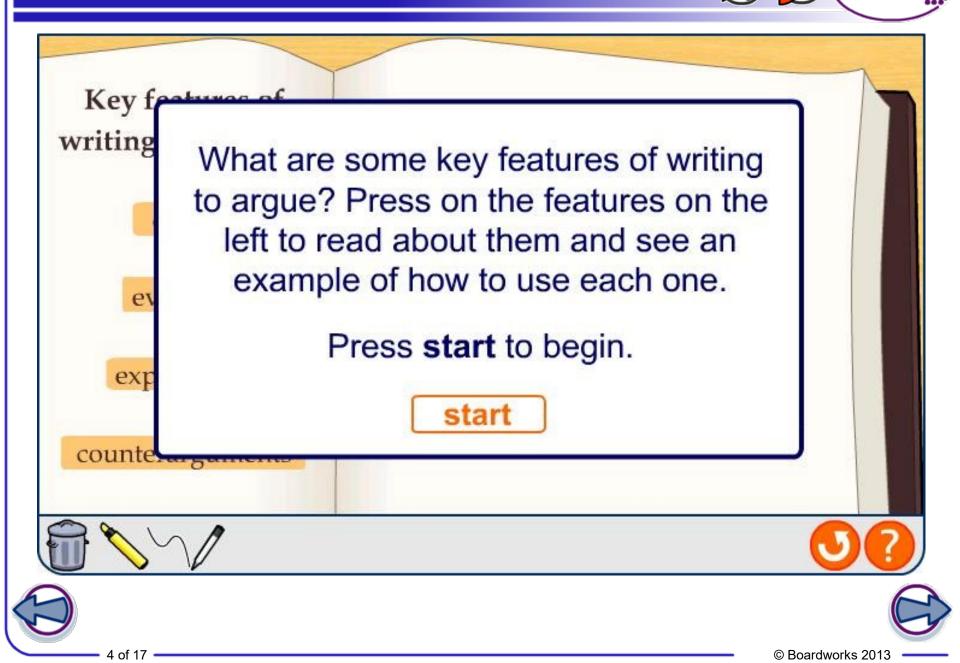




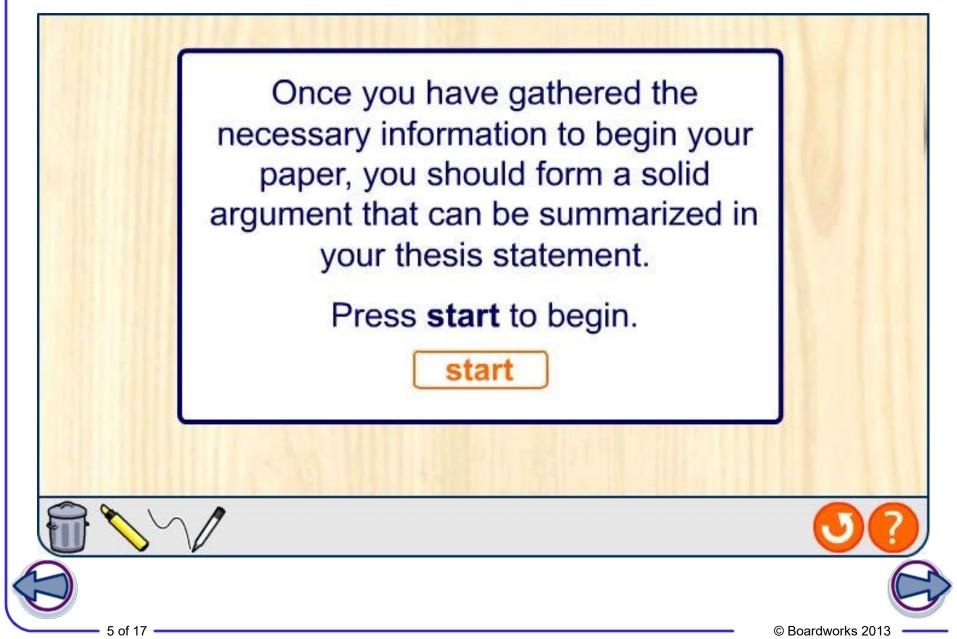
What is the difference between writing an argument and writing a persuasive essay?

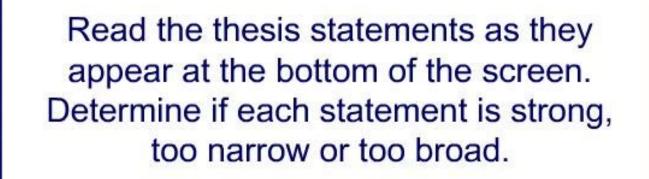


Key features of writing arguments









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

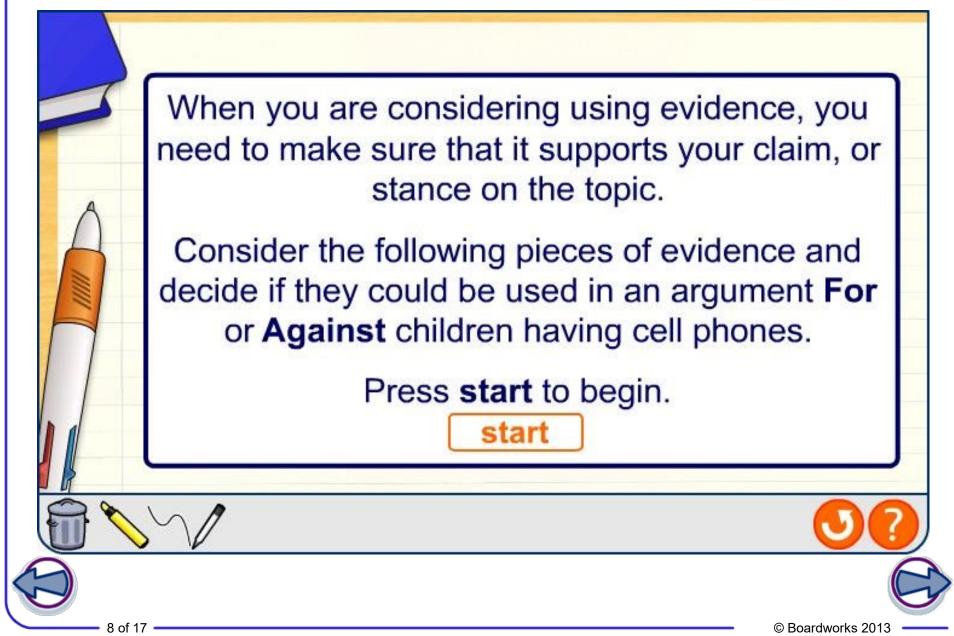
the ASPCA's website (aspca.org)

a wiki page on animal cruelty



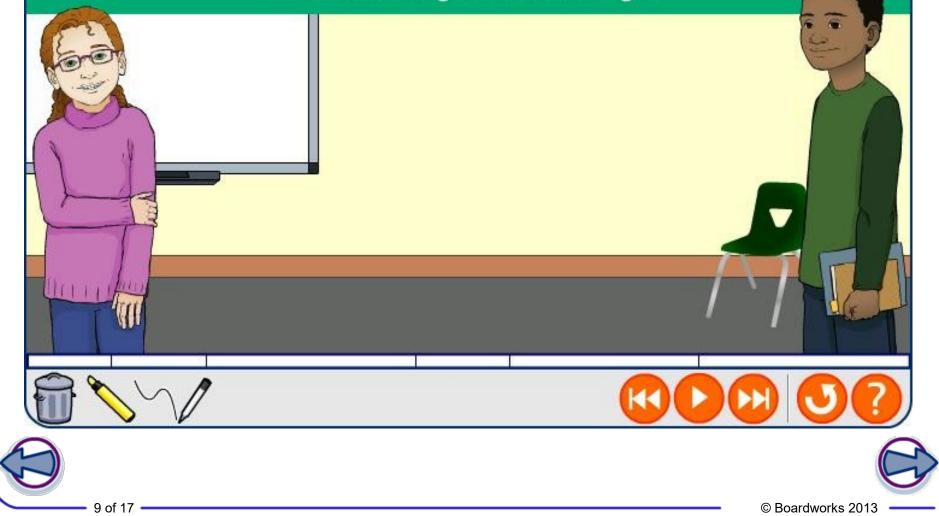


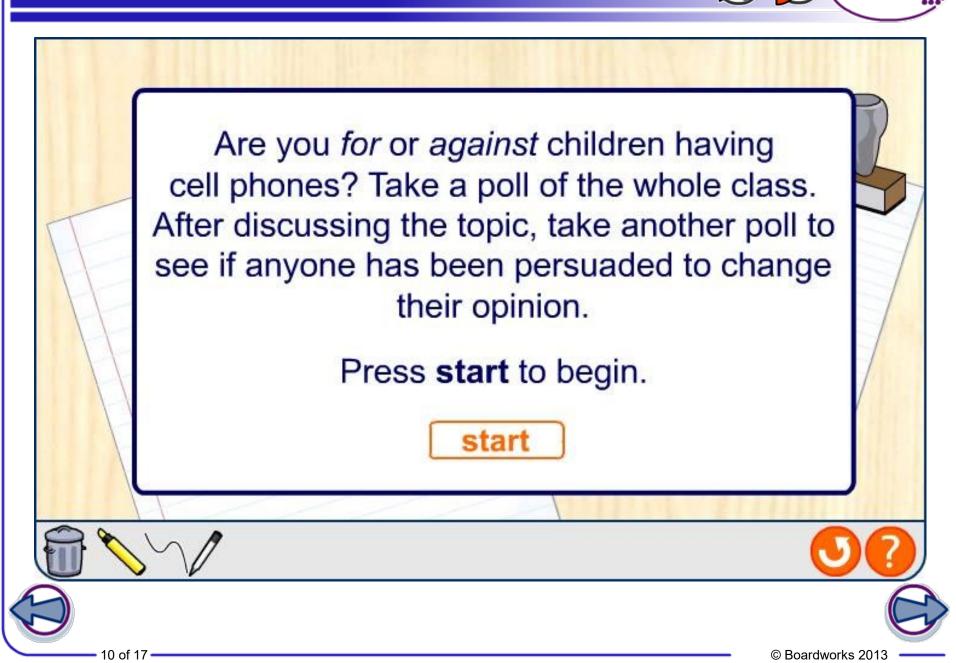


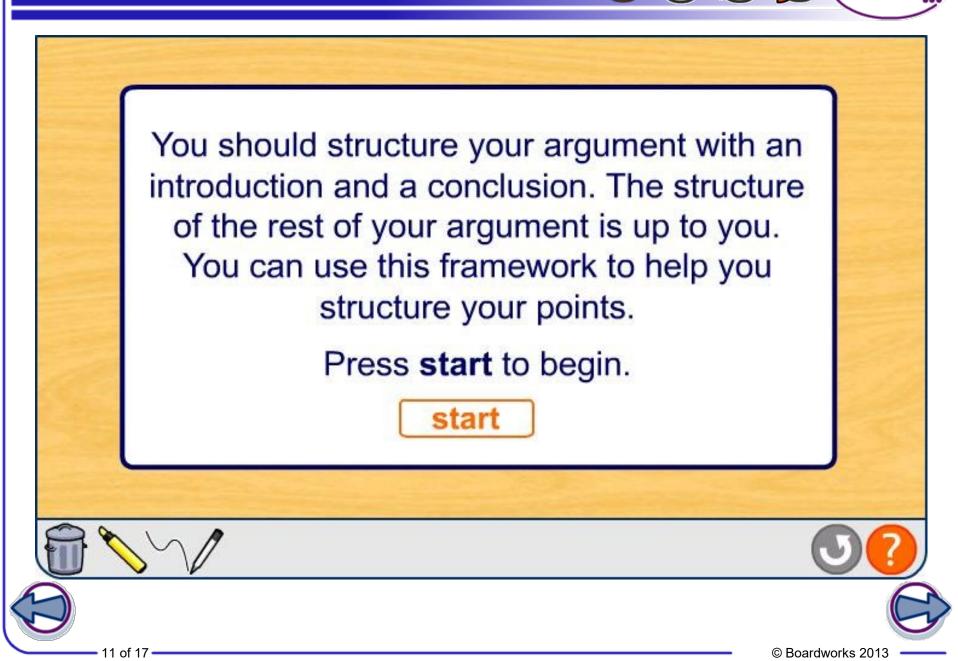




Madison and Dominic are having a debate about whaling. Read each student's statements and discuss how they can make their arguments stronger.







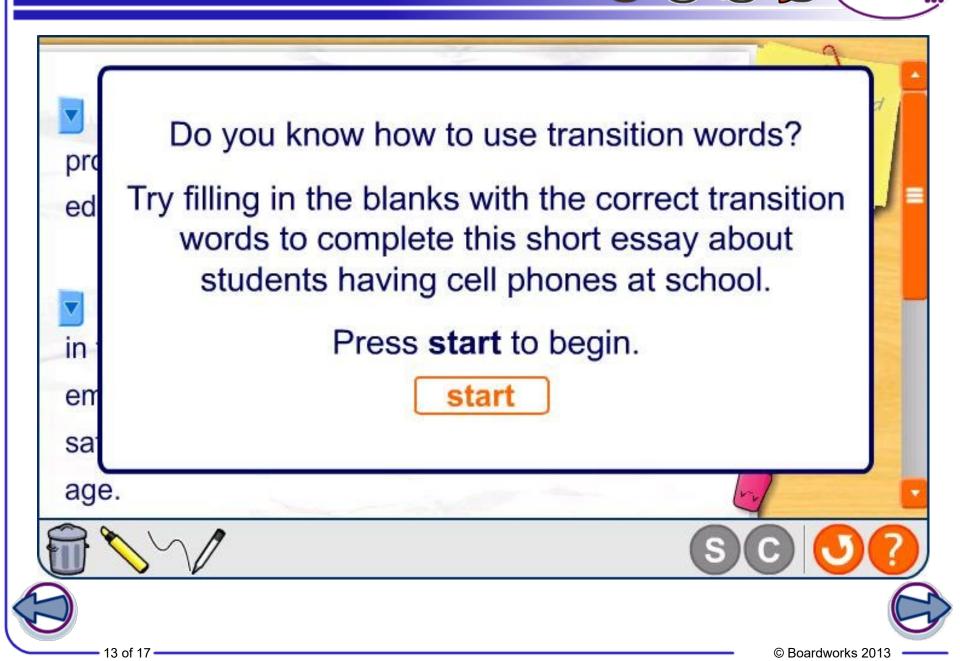


Once you have your points organized, you need to be able to guide the reader from one point to the next in your essay.

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?			



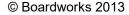


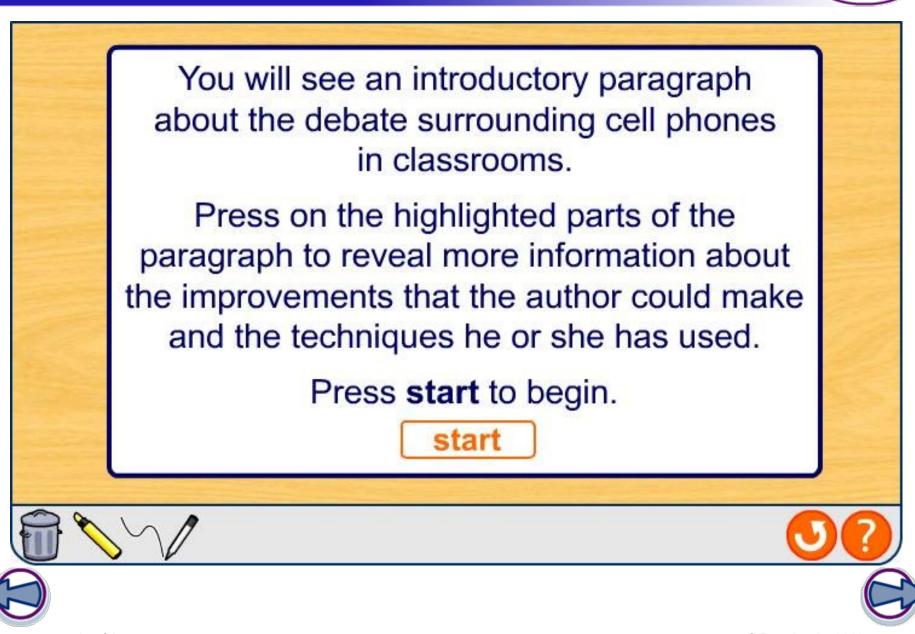


A topic sentence is the first sentence of a paragraph and tells the reader what the paragraph is about. You will see an introductory sentence, concluding sentence and four topic sentences in the wrong order. Discuss each one and identify any transition words. Use the transition words to arrange the sentences in the most logical order.

Press start to begin.

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Key techniques



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.

- Rhetorical questions
- Emotive language
- Alliteration
- Different length sentences
- Imperatives







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!