Why Argument Writing

Big Picture Goals for Argument

*A goal of education is to expand students’ sense of their possibilities and roles in the world. Argument writing plays a part in students’ identities in their careers, as college students, and as participants in a democratic society.*

Students as future participants in democracy

Thoughtful participants in democracy read, criticize, analyze, and create arguments daily: reading the paper, watching the news, surfing the internet, talking among friends, family, and co-workers. These small moments in everyday life make up a strong democracy.

Students as future college students

Argument is the common language of academic writing. Successful college writers know about making a claim, supporting it with relevant evidence, and citing evidence according to academic conventions.

Goals for Argument in the Present

*Developing skills in argument writing is not just about students’ future. By practicing arguments, students become more thoughtful members of their school, better learners, and more capable test-takers.*

Students as learners

Researching and writing arguments improve student learning beyond specific skills in writing. Students learn content knowledge, broaden their ideas, and stretch their mental capacities. Skills in argument writing improve learning in all subject areas.

Students as test takers

New assessments that reflect high college and career-ready standards in writing stress using textual evidence and understanding arguments, exactly what the CRWP is helping students do. Argument helps improve reasoning. Daily practice in argument can help students in test-taking situations.

ROUTINELY TEACH ARGUMENT WRITING

* Students engage with reading, writing, and arguing *routinely*
* Students write, revise, and edit short arguments *frequently*
* Students write extended arguments *occasionally*
* Teachers examine student work to assess effectiveness *routinely*
* Teachers focus on helping students use sources *effectively*

*Students in CRWP will write 4 arguments during the year and revise 2 of them.*

Writing Projects

SUPPORT TEACHERS' IMPLEMENTING ARGUMENT WRITING

* Co-teach argument with teachers in the classroom
* Model argument teaching in the classroom
* Consult on curriculum with teachers
* Connect teachers with resources

PROVIDES RESOURCES TO LOCAL WRITING PROJECTS

* Develops and disseminates
  + argument writing resources for writing projects and districts
  + professional development resources for writing projects
  + tools for formative assessment in argument writing
* Provides consultation to writing projects as needed

In District Classrooms

CRWP Leadership

College-Ready Writers Program Goals