

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 role in students' identities in their careers, as college students, and as citizens.

Students as future citizens

Thoughtful citizens 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 citizens 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.

College-Ready Writers Program Year 2 Program Goals

ROUTINELY TEACH ARGUMENT WRITING

In District
Classrooms

- Students read and write arguments *daily*
- Students write, revise, and edit shorter arguments *frequently*
- Students write longer researched arguments *occasionally*
- Teachers examine student work to assess effectiveness *routinely*
- Teachers focus on helping students use sources effectively

SUPPORT TEACHERS' IMPLEMENTING ARGUMENT WRITING

Writing
Projects

- 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

CRWP
Leadership

- 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

Resources

On Teaching Argument Writing

[Creating Habits of Writing](http://tinyurl.com/habitsofwriting) <http://tinyurl.com/habitsofwriting>

[Annotating Readings](http://tinyurl.com/annotatereadings) <http://tinyurl.com/annotatereadings>

[Mini-units on Teaching Argument](http://tinyurl.com/mini-units) <http://tinyurl.com/mini-units>

[Developing a Claim](http://tinyurl.com/claimdev) <http://tinyurl.com/claimdev>

[Using Sources](http://tinyurl.com/usesources) <http://tinyurl.com/usesources>

[Teaching an Extended Argument](http://tinyurl.com/extendedargument)

<http://tinyurl.com/extendedargument>

[Inside the Life of a Piece of Writing](http://tinyurl.com/lifeofwriting)

<http://tinyurl.com/lifeofwriting>

[Support for Teaching Argument Writing](http://tinyurl.com/argumentsupport)

<http://tinyurl.com/argumentsupport>

On Formative Assessment

[Formative Assessment e-Book](http://tinyurl.com/form-assess-ebook)

<http://tinyurl.com/form-assess-ebook>

[Using Sources tool](http://tinyurl.com/sourcestool)

<http://tinyurl.com/sourcestool>

On Professional Development

[The "Arc" of Professional Development](http://tinyurl.com/PDarc)

<http://tinyurl.com/PDarc>

[Professional Development in the](http://tinyurl.com/classroomPD)

[Classroom](http://tinyurl.com/classroomPD) <http://tinyurl.com/classroomPD>

[Extended Professional Development](http://tinyurl.com/extendedPD)

<http://tinyurl.com/extendedPD>