Checklists specific to the genre.

Progress boxes to help students set goals and measure progress.

Items grouped by writing stage to support the entire writing process.

Checklist items scaffolded into essential, important, and advanced items to support differentiation.

Designed to complement research-based writing frameworks such as 6+1 Traits and Writers Workshop.
Student Writing Checklist: Argument Writing

About this Resource

Students can use these writing checklists as a reference to remember the elements of effective argument writing. There are specific checklists for Ideas, Organization, and Craft so that students have support throughout the prewriting, drafting, and revision stages of the writing process and are not overwhelmed by having so many items at once. Each checklist is divided into Essential, Important, and Advanced elements to support differentiation for various levels of writers in the classroom.

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### ESSENTIAL

1. **Identify Clear Argument**
   *I can state my argument in a single sentence that takes a side on a relevant, debatable, real-world issue.***

   W.11-12.1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics...

2. **Integrate Multiple Reasons**
   *I can list many evidence-based reasons that support my argument.*

   W.11-12.1.B: Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant evidence

3. **Address Opposition**
   *I can state other points of view on this issue.*

   W.11-12.1.B: Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant evidence

4. **Make Compelling Claim**
   *I can explain how and why evidence supports my claims by using phrases like 'this shows,' 'evidence suggests,' etc.*

   W.11-12.1.B: Develop claim(s) . . . supplying the most relevant evidence for each

### IMPORTANT

5. **Demonstrate Significance**
   *I can explain the background of my claim to establish its importance and give readers a context for my topic.*

   W.11-12.A: Establish the significance of the claim(s)...

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Writing Genre: Argument **Ideas**

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   *I can state my argument in a single sentence that takes a side on a relevant, debatable, real-world issue.*

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**IMPORTANT**

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   *I can explain the background of my claim to establish its importance and give readers a context for my topic.*

   W.11-12.A: Establish the significance of the claim(s)...
<table>
<thead>
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<td></td>
<td>I have identified multiple sources of evidence to support and strengthen my argument and acknowledge counterclaims.</td>
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<td>I have gathered different viewpoints about the topic of my argument by holding peer discussions, analyzing other arguments through research, and questioning my own assumptions and beliefs.</td>
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<td><em>W.11-12.1.B: Develop claim(s) . . . anticipates the audience's... values, and possible biases</em></td>
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<th>See Both Sides Fairly</th>
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<td></td>
<td>I can state where the weaknesses are in my own reasons and evidence.</td>
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<td><em>W.11-12.1.B: Develop claim(s) and counterclaims . . . points out the strengths and limitations of both</em></td>
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1. Establish Context

My introduction previews the reasons that support my argument and gives background information to help readers understand the significance of my argument.

W.11-12.1.A: Establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims...create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

2. Provide Persuasive Conclusion

I conclude by asking readers to consider the implications of my argument and call them to take action (e.g., by making predictions in my conclusion; by providing a summary that gives a sense of the lingering possibilities of the topic, its larger meaning, and its impact; by reflecting again on the significance of my claim, etc.).

W.11-12.1.E: Provide concluding statement or section that...supports the argument presented.

3. Develop Structured Reasons

Each body paragraph presents another reason and more evidence to support my argument and disprove the opposing position.

W.11-12.A: ...create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
4. Adopt Logical Structure

I can lay out each point of my position in order, provide evidence for each premise, and draw a clear connection to my conclusion using a structure that strengthens my argument (e.g., cause-effect, compare-contrast, problem-solution, etc.).

W.11-12.1.A: ...create an organization that logically sequences claims(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

5. Assert and Defend Claims

I can present claims and address counterclaims in a strategic sequence to showcase the soundness of my evidence and further strengthen my argument.

W.11-12.1.A: ...create an organization that logically sequences claims(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

6. Craft Engaging Introduction

My introduction includes an inviting lead that captures readers’ interest, creates a desire to read on, and makes my position relatable.

W.11-12.1.A: Establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims...create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

7. Link Ideas to Establish Relationships

I use transitional words and phrases to explain the relationships between claims, reasons, evidence, and counterclaims such as:

“in particular,” “in contrast,” “as a result,” “as an illustration.”

W.11-12.1.C: ... create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.

8. Monitor Pacing

I use pacing skillfully, not lingering or rushing through on ideas; the length is appropriate to the topic and audience.
1. Prove Points More Effectively

I keep strong evidence and replace the weakest by writing in new evidence; I respectfully show why objections are invalid as if debating my reader in person.

_W.11-12.1.B: Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant evidence for each...in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases._

2. Write with Authority

I anticipate the kind of evidence my audience needs and make interesting points in powerful ways to advance my position (e.g., using graphs, charts, statistics, etc.).

_W.11-12.1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics._

3. Use Precise and Engaging Language

I use precise words, vigorous verbs, and figurative language to reflect confidence and help readers feel connected to my essay.

_W.11-12.1.D: Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the... conventions of the discipline in which they are writing._

4. Strengthen Viewpoint

I use purposeful language that conveys the kind of logical relationships I want readers to understand to believe my claims are true (e.g., relationships between points are clear, sentences have a reason for being grouped into paragraphs, etc.).

_W.11-12.1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics._
5. Vary Sentence Structure

I use a variety of sentence structures that convey the relationships between my claims, counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

W.11-12.1.D: Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.

6. Replace Unclear Language

I use topic-specific terms precisely; I detect and replace unclear and imprecise sentences and word choices to help readers better understand my argument.

W.11-12.1.A: Establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims...create an organization that logically sequences claims, counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

7. Use Balanced Tone

I use language that conveys a tone appropriate to my audience; I convey an open manner and avoid lecturing so my audience understands why my points matter.

8. Create Fluent Flow

I create a smooth progression of ideas enhanced by integrating quotes, paraphrasing, using transitions and sentence variety, etc. that establish clear relationships and draw connections among claims, counterclaims, etc.