Step 1: Select Topic of Logical Argument

1. **Leading Issues** are **300+ pro/con topics** featuring Essential Questions with content to support all sides of the issue, a concise overview, timeline, statistics, global perspectives, multimedia, terms to know, and viewpoint quotes. **Click any of the icons below to browse SIRS Leading Issues:**

2. **What 5 Leading Issue topics of argument are you most interested in researching?**

   1. ______________________
   2. ______________________
   3. ______________________
   4. ______________________
   5. ______________________

3. **Make a final decision about your logical argument research topic.**
   
   My research topic of argument is:
   
   __________________________________________

4. **Why are you most interested in the topic of argument selected?**

   __________________________________________
Step 2: Research to Build and Present Knowledge

1. Access Leading Issue summaries (“Topic Overview” or “At Issue” Pages) and Timeline (under Research Tools) from the SIRS Leading Issue you have chosen. In 3-5 sentences, summarize the background and historical information of the Leading Issue you selected. Include main controversies, key figures, important organizations, and key events.

________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

2. Read the Essential Question, Pro/Con articles, and Viewpoints to learn about the claims of your Leading Issue topic of argument. What are all the claims related to the Leading Issue topic of argument you selected?

3. Think about which claim you would like to be the focus of your argument.

Common Core Standard*

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.7 Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Need Help?

A claim is a position on a topic you will argue with evidence to support it.

Narrow your results

Matching Subjects (255 results)
All source types (2020+ results)

Newspapers (758 results)
Magazines (54 results)
Viewpoints (22 results)
Reference (19 results)
Graphics/Media (260 results)
WebSelect Sites (75 results)
Step 3: Introduce the Claim of the Argument & Gather Information from Multiple Source Types to Find Evidence to Support and Refute Your Claim

1. Decide on the main claim of your argument. Review all the claims related to your selected Leading Issue topic of argument.

   Which claim is the focus of your argument?

   THINK: ‘Which claim do I most strongly agree with?’
   CHALLENGE: Select a claim you do not strongly agree with for a more challenging topic of logical argument.

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

2. Gather information to find evidence to support and refute your claim. Use the Leading Issue as a starting point. Utilize results list and advanced search to find supporting content. Find a variety of sources in SIRS Issues Researcher (newspapers, magazines, graphics, web sites). As you research, keep track of articles with My List.

3. Distinguish pros and cons of your claim. List the evidence and reasons that support your claim (pro) and the evidence/reasons that refute your claim (con):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pro</th>
<th>Con</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 4: Develop and Organize Claim

1. Develop claim by researching evidence. The SIRS Note Organizer helps you cite sources and organize supporting evidence. Be sure to identify flaws in the evidence for and against your claim.

2. Check mark ✓ next to each type of source you used to support your claim and refute the counterclaim(s):

- Definitions
- Eyewitness accounts
- Government documents
- Graphics
- Interviews
- Magazine articles
- Multimedia
- Newspaper articles
- Political cartoons
- Reference books
- Statistical information
- Web sites

3. Organize evidence to support your claim and refute the counterclaim(s). Cite your sources.

Claim:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pro</th>
<th>Con</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Evidence:</td>
<td>Refuting Evidence:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Evidence:</td>
<td>Refuting Evidence:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Evidence:</td>
<td>Refuting Evidence:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Common Core Standard*:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.1.B Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly, supplying data and evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both claim(s) and counterclaims in a discipline-appropriate form and in a manner that anticipates the audience’s knowledge level and concerns.

Need Help?

Consider these helpful tools located in Leading Issues topic pages:
- Supporting facts and figures via the Statistics link in Research Tools.
- Expert opinions in the Perspectives section of At Issues and Topic Overviews.
- Primary Sources in the Additional Resources of Topic Overviews.
- Definitions in Terms to Know in Topic Overviews.
Step 5: Synthesize Information and Write Argument

1. Write a clear claim statement to be used in your introductory paragraph.
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. Write your introductory paragraph. Be sure to include the claim statement.
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3. Compose the body of the argument. Refer to your organization of pros and cons with evidence. If you used Note Organizer, refer to it now. Consider this possible format for your argument. Formats may vary depending on writing style and assignment requirements:
   
   I. Introductory Paragraph with Claim Statement
      ____________________________________________________________
   
   II. Body Section 1 (Pro)
       a. Supporting Reason 1 with evidence
       b. Supporting Reason 2 with evidence
       c. Supporting Reason 3 with evidence
       ____________________________________________________________
   
   III. Body Section 2 (Con)
       a. Opposing Reason 1 with refuting evidence
       b. Opposing Reason 2 with refuting evidence
       c. Opposing Reason 3 with refuting evidence
       ____________________________________________________________
   
   IV. Conclusion

Common Core Standards*

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.1.C Use words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.9 Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Need Help?

When writing an introductory paragraph, ask:

- Can I use an interesting anecdote or stunning statistics to grab my audience?
- Have I clearly expressed my position?
- Is my claim specific and focused?
- Will my claim statement trigger thoughtful debate?

Need Help?

Use transitional words and clauses for clear, logical transitions between sections of your argument.

Examples:

- Accordingly
- Admittedly
- Above all
- As a result
- Certainly
- For example
- Furthermore
- For instance
- Granted
- However
- In particular
- Likewise
- Nevertheless
- To the contrary
Step 6:

Conclusion and Evaluation

1. A concluding paragraph is where you can spur or inspire action based on evidence presented. **What action will you suggest to the reader?**

2. Write the concluding paragraph of your logical argument.

3. Read over your logical argument assignment and ask the following questions as you write and proofread your paper. Make revisions as needed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is my argument well organized with an introduction, claim, body and conclusion?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have I used supporting evidence to defend each point related to the claim of my argument?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does every paragraph contain clear opening and closing sentences? Does it flow?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are transitional words or clauses used to separate ideas?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have I used vocabulary that is appropriate in style and tone for my intended audience?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Is all punctuation correct?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have I cited my sources in the proper format required by my teacher?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Do I have a conclusion that supports the argument presented?</td>
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**Common Core Standards**

- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.1.D** Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.1.E** Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.

**Need Help?**

When writing a concluding paragraph, ask:
- Have I ended the discussion of logical argument?
- Have I restated the introductory paragraph?
- Have I avoided generalities and presented specific ideas for action such as further research or lobbying to politicians?
- Have I summarized the main points of the argument?