

Argument Essay Planning Guide

1. Clarify the topic.	
2. Brainstorm both sides of the topic.	
3. Develop a thesis statement for your side of the argument - What do you believe to be true for your side of the argument?	
4. What is the evidence that supports your thesis statement? This should include references to researched information when possible.	
5. Identify counter-arguments What might the other side say about your arguments?	6. Provide an organized reaction to counter-arguments. Why is your argument stronger?
7. Summarize why the thesis statement is correct based on your arguments. What are the most important points you can make to convince others to support your arguments? How does your side "outweigh" the other side?	

Adapted with permission from the author from:
Zwiers, J. (2004) *Developing Academic Thinking Skills in Grades 6-12*. Newark, DE: International Reading Association.

