



Argument Writing Cheat Sheet

& Paired Activity Cards

ARGUMENT WRITING CHEAT SHEET

PURPOSE
To inform an audience that your viewpoint deserves consideration

STRATEGY
To present information on both sides of an issue by favoring one side and casting reasonable doubt about the merits of the other side

PHRASES
While it is true that...
Opponents will claim...
In spite of the fact...

STYLE
Logical
Professional
Detached

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
Resources including claims and counterclaims are the keys to validating your position.

ELASeminars.com

PERSUASIVE WRITING CHEAT SHEET

PURPOSE
To move an audience to action or to convince an audience to adopt your viewpoint

STRATEGY
To present information and opinions on one side of an issue by developing a strong connection with a target audience

PHRASES
You can help...
Do you want...
We deserve better...

STYLE
Passionate
Personal
Emotional

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
Your feelings about the issue along with a call to action are the keys to achieving your goal.

ELASeminars.com

Writing Argument Collaborative Planning Sheet

Names: _____

Sources: _____

Claim (point of view)

Evidence #1 (supporting information)

Evidence #2 (supporting information)

Counterclaim (opponent's best argument)

The Toulmin Model for Argument
The Toulmin Model for Argument is named after Stephen Toulmin, a 20th century philosopher, author and astronomer. While he is a scientist, his model of argument represents the very general approach for science. The five parts are essential for all arguments, but not every part is applicable to the five.

The components of this model include:
CLAIM - DATA - WARRANT - BACKING - REBUTTAL - QUALIFICATION

Formal Toulmin Model for Argument

1. **Claim** - State your position or claim being argued.
2. **Data** - Give the evidence that will strengthen the claim.
3. **Warrant** - Answer the question "So what?" or "Why should people support your side of the issue?"
4. **Backing** - Offer a second reason or add support to your data.
5. **Rebuttal** - Think about someone who would disagree with your position might say. Then...
6. **Qualification** - explain why someone who might disagree with you would be wrong.

Classroom Adaptation of the Toulmin Model for Argument

Student (1): Make a statement (Your claim)
Student (2): "What makes you believe that?"
Student (3): Answer the question (e.g. "Be...") (Data)

For the following notes:

All numbers apply.
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Social Media Addiction

Getting Started
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What I Think Opponents Say
Your Current Position
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Research Planning Guide
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2nd Best Evidence for Your Claim
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Expose Opponent's Best Argument and Weaken It

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While it is true that...
Some may say...
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What's the Difference?

Argument Writing vs. Persuasive Writing Cheat Sheet

Add cheat sheets
to notebooks for
easy reference!



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Argument Topic Cards and Planning Tools for Student Pairs





Product Components

#1: Persuasive Writing and Argument Writing Cheat Sheets

Purpose: To help students understand the fundamentals of the two genres

Categories on the Cheat Sheets include: 1) Purpose, 2) Strategy, 3) Phrases, 4) Style and Essential Elements.

#2: 24 Paired Activity Planning Cards

Purpose: To give step by step support to student pairs as they plan an argument piece

Each card includes: 1) a Topic/Issue, 2) Getting Started Information, and 3) a Research Planning Guide.

#3: A Paired Activity Discussion Card

Purpose: To help students internalize the components of The Toulmin Model for Argument



Additional Materials:

Collaborative Argument Planning Sheet

Full-size versions of the Paired Activity Planning Cards



Activity Cards and Planning Tools

Mini Collaboration Guides for Student Pairs

Directions:

- 1) Assign a topic or allow student pairs to select an issue which has supporters and opponents.
- 2) Have students discuss the “Getting Started” subtopics and agree on a position.
- 3) Ask students to research their selected topic/issue using the “Research Planning Guide.”
- 4) Distribute the “Collaborative Planning Sheet.”



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Beauty Pageants

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Collaborative Planning Sheet

Directions:

- 1) Student pairs will complete one “Collaborative Planning Sheet” per topic.
- 2) Abbreviated source information must be included (e.g. *The World Around Us: Chapter 2; New York Times: 2014 online article*).



Writing Argument

Collaborative Planning Sheet

Names _____

Sources:

Claim (point of view)

Evidence #1 (supporting information)

Evidence #2 (supporting information)

Counterclaim (opponent's best argument)

Rebuttal (weakness in opponent's argument)

Conclusion (satisfying review)



Activity Topic and Planning Cards

Directions:

- 1) Cut out activity cards and distribute to the class.
- 2) Instruct students to find the partner who is in possession of the same topic/issue.
- 3) Follow the step by step directions on page #4.



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Dodge Ball in Gym Class

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Violent Video Games

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Ban Fast Food Chains

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Year Round School

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Fast Food Employee Wages

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USA Soccer Obsession

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Book Banning

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Music Plagiarism

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Coed Sports

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Blank Topic Cards



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Argument Topic Cards: Full Page Display Version



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Argument and Weaken It

Pick one:

My opponents will likely claim...

While it is true that...

Some may say...

Close



Toulmin's Model for Argument Paired Activity Discussion Card



The Toulmin Model for Argument

The Toulmin Model for Argument is named after Stephen Toulmin, a 21st century philosopher, author and educator, who (in *The Uses of Argument*) proposed that every practical argument has six parts. The *first 3 parts* are necessary for all arguments; the *last 3 parts* add credibility to the first 3.

The components of this model include:

CLAIM + DATA + WARRANT + BACKING + REBUTTAL + QUALIFICATION

Formal Toulmin Model for Argument

1. **Claim:** State your position or claim being argued.
2. **Data:** Give one reason that will strengthen the claim.
3. **Warrant:** Answer the question: “So what?” or “Why should people support your side of the issue?”
4. **Backing:** Offer a second reason or add support to your data.
5. **Rebuttal:** State what someone who would disagree with your position might say. Then...
6. **Qualification:** ...explain why someone who might disagree with you would be wrong.

Classroom Adaptation of the Toulmin Model for Argument

Student #1: Make a statement (*Your claim*)

Student #2: “What makes you believe that?”

Student #1: Answer the question (e.g. “If...”). (*Data*)

Student #2: “Why does that matter?”

Student #1: Answer the question (*Warrant*) **AND** complete the following stems:

“Some may argue that...” (*Rebuttal*)

“However...because...” (*Qualification*)

**Switch roles, arguing the opposing viewpoint OR another topic.*



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