

Argument Graphic Organizer

Purpose:

This graphic organizer provides an avenue to evaluate an author's argument within a text by determining the relevance and validity of each claim and the overall sufficiency of the evidence presented.

Sample/Description:

Use the Argument Graphic Organizer to support students as they delineate and evaluate claims made by the author throughout a text. Prepare students for this thinking by discussing how much evidence is sufficient and by determining the relevancy of evidence within the text. Model and highlight these critical features in a variety of text types to build competency with this strategy for students.

After highlighting critical features within text and demonstrating using models, provide time for guided practice using the graphic organizer:

- 1) Students practice in pairs as they read short texts closely and evaluate evidence and reasoning. Students highlight critical features of texts and begin to complete graphic organizers in pairs.
- 2) Students work independently after working in pairs. Provide support via prompting, as needed. Students continue to highlight critical features of texts and complete graphic organizers.

Evaluating an Argument

Directions: After reading an argument text, use the table below to evaluate the author's reasoning and evidence.

Claim 1:

Is the claim relevant? Tell why.

Is the claim valid? Tell why.

Claim 2:

Is the claim relevant? Tell why.

Is the claim valid? Tell why.

Claim 3:

Is the claim relevant? Tell why.

Is the claim valid? Tell why.

Claim 4:

Is the claim relevant? Tell why.

Is the claim valid? Tell why.

Is the evidence presented by the author sufficient? Tell why or why not.