

# So You Think You Can *Argue*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guided Teaching Worksheet



An **argument** is just a \_\_\_\_\_  
that someone believes is or  
should be \_\_\_\_\_.

A **counterargument**  
expresses the \_\_\_\_\_  
point of view.

A **supporting argument**  
explains why a \_\_\_\_\_  
argument is \_\_\_\_\_.



*Kids should be in school Monday through Satur-*

*Kids should not have to go to school on Saturdays!*



*And I can think of four reasons why not.*

- Reason #1: \_\_\_\_\_
- Reason #2: \_\_\_\_\_
- Reason #3: \_\_\_\_\_
- Reason #4: \_\_\_\_\_

## → Are You Laboring Under a *Misconception*?? ←

MYTHS ABOUT ARGUMENTS	REALITY
An argument is just people yelling at each other.	Arguments can be very _____ . An argument in writing is _____ !
You have to totally believe in what you are arguing.	Making an argument has nothing to do with how you _____ .
Every argument has a right and wrong side.	Most of the time, the two sides of an argument are just different _____ .
You can't be good at arguing unless you can think fast on your feet.	A lot of great arguing takes place on _____ , where you can _____ everything through first.

Argue on paper? Why would I want to do that??



Imagine this: Your state legislature is thinking about passing a law that says frogs can't drive until they are 18. You want to write a letter to convince your state senator to vote against the idea. What would you say?



Or this: Your city decided to close the park where you always hang out and play basketball. The city officials say there was too much trouble at the park and there was trash everywhere. Would you know what to write in a letter that would convince them to re-open the park?

Uh-oh...



What about this: You bought a used truck from the car lot downtown, but the truck didn't have a stereo. The salesman told you they would take a stereo from a different truck and install it in your truck. He said it would work great. You drove your truck home and discovered the stereo doesn't work at all! You called the car lot, but they refuse to fix the problem. You want to write a letter demanding they fix the stereo or else you will take them to court!

What word do you see inside the word "persuasive?"

\_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean to "persuade" someone?

- (A) To disturb someone about something.
- (B) To sweat on someone.
- (C) To convince someone that something is true.
- (D) To cause someone to be confused about something.

Help! I need persuasive writing!



Bet you can't argue your way out of this one.

**LET'S PRACTICE**

The school rules say students are not allowed to wear hats inside the building. The rules say a hat is anything that covers and protects a person's head. Susie wore a giant ribbon in her hair and got in trouble for violating the no-hat rule! Did Susie really violate the rule?

There are two possible main arguments:



1) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Should/Should Not	Does/Does Not
Argue why something should or should not be _____.	Argue why something does or does not _____ a _____.
Use this kind of argument when you are arguing your _____ about something.	Use this kind of argument when there is already a _____ in place.
<i>Example:</i> Should _____? _____?	<i>Example:</i> The school rule says no hats. Susie wore a giant ribbon on her head. Did _____? _____?

**Who Cares What You Think?**

Making an arguments is a \_\_\_\_\_ that you \_\_\_\_\_. "What you think" doesn't really \_\_\_\_\_ at all. You should be able to argue for \_\_\_\_\_ sides no matter which side you think is \_\_\_\_\_.



## You Can't Come In Here With That Thing On!

Argument A: Susie did not violate the rule because her ribbon is not a hat.

Argument B: Susie did violate the rule because her ribbon is a hat.

Look at the list of supporting arguments below.

- Mark A if the argument supports Argument A.
- Mark B if the argument supports Argument B.

- \_\_\_\_\_ The ribbon is something on her head.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The ribbon is too flimsy to protect Susie's head from anything.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The ribbon does not cover all of her head.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The ribbon could protect Susie's head from rain or dust.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The ribbon would not keep Susie's head warm.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The ribbon covers most of Susie's head.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The ribbon could protect Susie's head from sunlight.

### Mini-Quiz: Yes or No?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is it possible to make an argument you disagree with?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is there a right and wrong side to an argument?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Could persuasive writing help you convince someone to do something differently?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Can an argument be silent?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Would a does/does not argument help you persuade the city to re-open the basketball park?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Would a main argument be very strong without any supporting arguments?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Would a does/does not argument help you persuade the mall to let you back in?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Can you argue on paper?