



6TH GRADE ARGUMENTATIVE PORTFOLIO

Semester B 2021



Question



When is a time you were able to convince someone of something? What did you convince them and how did you do it?

Persuasive vs. Argumentative



- Persuasive: Based solely on opinion. You want the reader to agree with your opinion.
- Argumentative: Makes claims based on opinion, hypothesis, theory, etc. You want the reader to understand your side and hopefully consider taking the same viewpoint as you.

What is NOT an argument?

- Talking like you would to a sibling or friend. You are not just saying why your idea is better or makes more sense.
- Your argument needs to be supported by facts, not simply by what you think. Otherwise, it would be a persuasive essay.

Steps for completing your Argumentative Portfolio



1. Choose your topic
2. Research your topic
3. Fill out your outline
4. Review and revise



1. Choose Your Topic



Choose from the following list of topics!

- How is bullying a problem and what are effective ways to stop it?
- Do violent movies and video games have a negative effect on society?
- Should every student have to play a musical instrument?
- Does how the media shows beauty have a negative effect on society?
- What is an issue facing the environment and what can be done to help?
- Do students have too much homework?
- Should all students have to take summer school?
- How late should 6th graders be allowed to stay up?

2. Research Your Topic



Here are the rules for researching online or at a library.

- Your source should be recent (within the last 10 years)
- The article or website you search should have an author
- You must cite your sources



Citing Sources From Online



- Question: When should 6th graders go to bed?
- Thesis: All 6th graders should go to bed by 9:00 pm because it is essential they sleep 10 hours and are ready for school in the morning.
- Google search: “How much sleep do 12 year olds need?”
- Result: CBSnews.com article “**New sleep guidelines for babies, kids and teens**” by Mary Brophy Marcus



Citing Sources From Online



- CBSnews.com article “New sleep guidelines for babies, kids and teens” by Mary Brophy Marcus
- Quote from article: “Not getting enough sleep is linked with more [injuries](#), hypertension, [obesity](#), diabetes, and depression, among other health problem”



Citing Sources From Online



- Add quotation marks
- Add the author's name in parentheses () after the quote
- Include your source at the end of the essay
- “Not getting enough sleep is linked with more [injuries](#), hypertension, [obesity](#), diabetes, and depression, among other health problems” (Marcus).



3. Fill Out Your Outline



■ Introduction

- Introduce your topic in an interesting way
- Thesis statement: (blank) should be able to (blank) because (why). Or (topic) is/isn't an issue because (why).

■ First Point

- Introduce your first idea
- Information about this idea (good area to add source)
- Summarize why this first point is valid

■ Second Point

- Introduce your second idea
- Information about this idea (good area to add source)
- Summarize why this second point is valid

■ Opposite of your belief/claim

- Introduce the opposite point (what the other side thinks)
- Write why you disagree with the opposite side
- Summarize why your side is valid

■ Conclusion

- Restate the main thesis statement
- Talk about why your two main points are important
- Leave your reader with something to think about

Introduction

Introduce your topic in an interesting way



What would most members of our society do if they had to choose between their phones or a book? Many would likely choose the phones. While technology is a wonderful tool, it seems that many people are forgetting the value books have to society.

Thesis statement: topic + should (be able) + because + explain why.

Students should be required to read at least 5 hours per week while in school because reading helps to develop our minds, is a vital life skill, and we can discover new things.

First Point



Introduce your first idea: *One reason why is...*

We can develop our minds through reading.

Information about this idea (good area to add information from online source)

Most brains don't reach full development until the age of 25 (Sather and Shelat). This is why it is important that young people read to support the development of their minds. For example, reading can introduce new words that can expand a young person's vocabulary.

Summarize why this first point is valid

As a society, it is important that we continue to learn and reading helps support that.

Second Point



Introduce your second idea: *A second reason why is...*

Reading is a vital life skill.

Information about this idea (good area to add source)

We read every day, whether we realize it or not. Whether it is instructions for assembling something, a listing for a job, or a text message from a friend, we are always reading.

Summarize why this second point is valid

It is important to be skilled at reading as it will affect us in the future

Opposite of your belief/claim



Introduce the opposite point (what the other side thinks.) *People that disagree might say...*

People that disagree might say that reading is a waste of time.

Write about why you disagree with the opposite side. *However, this is not right because...*

However this is not right because if we didn't know how to read in society today, we probably would not make it very far. As a tool of communication, reading is essential for sharing information and ideas.

Summarize why your side is valid

We may not always think reading impacts us but the most basic of ideas, such as the ones listed in this essay, would be difficult to understand if you could not read.

Conclusion



Restate the main thesis statement: *In conclusion...*

In conclusion, reading is a valuable tool.

Talk about why your two main points are important

Reading helps us develop our minds and learn important information and life skills.

Try to leave your reader with something to think about. Consider asking a question.

Can you even imagine a world without it?

What would we do with this source??

<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content.aspx?ContentTypeID=1&ContentID=3051>

Where are the resources?



- They are on the message board!

Final Reminders



- Outline required (step up in rigor!)
 - Double spaced +12 point font
 - Times New Roman font
 - MLA source!
 - Name at the top
-
- Let me know if you have any other questions!

