Directions: Fill in the boxes with the red words from the PowerPoint show.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Argument</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Writing</td>
<td>- The writer presents a claim on a controversial issue and uses evidence to support it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>- A topic from society that people have different opinions about.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>- An individual’s conclusion about a text, topic, event, or idea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Why is writing important?</td>
<td>- Learning how to write an effective argument is key to learning critical thinking skills and is an important part of school and real-life writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>- It all starts by knowing the audience. Who will be affected by the argument issue? Who will read the essay?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>- Clearly state a claim in the thesis statement and support it using solid reasons and evidence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. How does it differ from writing?</td>
<td>- Persuasive writing also involves making a claim. However, the supporting details are based on feelings and emotions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>- Logic, data, and facts that support the thesis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. (or warrant)</td>
<td>- Statement that explains how the evidence supports and connects the evidence to the claim.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. (or counterclaim)</td>
<td>- Challenging the argument by addressing the position of someone who may not agree with it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. (or rebuttal)</td>
<td>- Demonstrating why the counterargument is wrong.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Organizing the Argument Essay

An argument essay is usually about paragraphs.

Writing the Introductory Paragraph

1. The lead "hooks" readers and encourages them to keep reading. It loosely introduces the issue, but doesn't specifically mention the claim.

A quote from a famous person or expert.
President Obama once said, "During the summer, students are losing a lot of what they learn. A longer school year makes sense."

Children spend a majority of their time playing video games and sports; however, they should spend a majority of their time reading and writing.

Are most Americans satisfied that compared to their peers in Europe and Asia, American students score lower on achievement tests?

Introduce the : Briefly explain the issue and any controversy surrounding the argument. Give background information. Do NOT state your position yet.

Ex. Much to the public's dismay, summer vacations are in jeopardy in some areas. In many school districts, administrators are pushing forward with a movement to extend the school year.

State Your : This is the statement.

It is a promise to the reader that the essay will address the argument and prove the claim.

It may help to use one of the following key words to form the thesis:
* Reasons  * Benefits  * Advantages  * Disadvantages

Ex. There are definite advantages associated with switching to a year-round schedule.

1. Start with a topic sentence that introduces a REASON people would be convinced by the argument.
   Ex. If students attend school year-round, they will improve academically and avoid "summer slide."

2. Include specific evidence to support the topic sentence. Use logic, data, and facts.
   Ex. For example, a district in Arizona saw reading scores go up more than 50% after extending the school year by 20 days.

3. Follow each piece of evidence with an explanation about how the evidence connects to and supports the claim.
   Ex. This significant increase proves that students benefit by spending more time in school.

4. Support the Topic Sentence
   Provide More and Another
   Connect All Evidence to the Reason in the Topic Sentence

5. Conclude the paragraph by rephrasing the topic sentence.
   Ex. It is possible to improve test scores by requiring more days in school.

The second body paragraph should be formatted like the first one with another reason to support the claim.

Text-reference and transition words and phrases to use in the body paragraphs:

First, Also, Finally,
For example, Above all, Particularly,
Furthermore, Additionally, According to
Therefore, Consequently, For instance,
Body Paragraph: Counterargument & Turn-Back

The counterargument proves that you have fully researched the topic. It gives you a chance to point out why your argument is better.

**Transition words and phrases MUST BE used to introduce the counterargument:**

- It might seem that,
- Of course,
- Certainly,
- Admittedly,
- Some people claim
- A common argument against this position is...
- It’s true that,
- One might object
- At first glance,
- While
- Some researchers say...
- Opponents might argue that...

The turn-back is a return to the original argument. Be sure to refute the opposing claim.

**Transition words and phrases MUST BE used to introduce the turn-back.**

Yet, Despite However, Nevertheless,
Still, Except Conversely, Even so,

The transition words and phrases work in pairs to introduce the counterargument and turn-back.

- It might seem that However
- Certainly Yet,
- An argument against this position is Yet,
- Opponents may argue that Nevertheless,

Ex: It is true that critics of year-round school say studies showing score increases in year-round programs are inconclusive. They say it is difficult to pinpoint the real reason for the improvements. However, there is no doubt that students in districts that have year-round school outperform students in ten month programs on achievement tests.

Can you find the transitions?
Concluding Paragraph

The conclusion to an argument essay has three parts.

1. Paraphrase the thesis statement.
   Ex. Students with a year-round school schedule have an advantage over their peers who follow a ten month schedule.

2. Review Points
   Ex. A year-round schedule will prevent students from losing the hard earned knowledge gained during the school year. It will also...

3. Leave the Reader
   Ex. Finally, provide a benefit that will result from complying with (going along with) the argument. Or provide a "call to action" to move the audience into wanting to make a change.
   Ex. The nation's future depends upon having intelligent citizens. Schools must be year-round in order to graduate such citizens.

Other Tips

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cool!</th>
<th>Not!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use convincing language.</td>
<td>Don’t use your argument by using “I believe” or “I think.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cite research sources.</td>
<td>Don’t cite vague information or details that can’t be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use facts, examples, and/or statistics per body paragraph.</td>
<td>Don’t rely on experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be respectful of those who agree with your position.</td>
<td>Don’t attack those who disagree.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ex. Studies indicate that students had little or no academic growth over summer breaks, especially in math.
Ex. Opponents might argue that students need a long summer break.
Ex. According to the New York Times...
   - Tina Law, Director of...
Ex. I think that studies show that students had little or no academic growth over summer breaks.
Ex. Students in year-round programs have reading scores that are extremely high.
Ex. My cousin Vinny loves going to school in July...
Ex. Only an idiot would say that students don’t need a long summer break.

What makes these better than these?
Organizing the Argument Essay

Introductory Paragraph

Hook:

Introduce the Issue:

Thesis Statement/Claim:

1st Body Paragraph, 2nd, and 3rd Body Paragraphs

Topic Sentence - Reason:

Evidence:

Bridge:

Evidence:

Bridge:

Conclusion:

(As these are paragraphs 2, 3, 4 of your essay that explain your reasons and evidence to support your claim)
Organizing the Argument Essay

Counterargument & Turn-back Paragraph (Paragraph 5)

Counterargument:

Turn-back:

Concluding Paragraph (Paragraph 6)

Thesis/Claim:

Key Point Review:

Leave the Reader Thinking: