

# The Common Core: Teaching Argumentative Writing and Speaking, Grades 6–12

In *The Common Core: Teaching Argumentative Writing and Speaking, Grades 6–12*, you'll gain a better understanding of why argumentative literacy is a key feature of academic life and a crucial skill students need for college and career. As you explore the main elements and structures of argumentative writing and speaking that you'll be teaching your students, you'll also examine the interplay between reading, writing, and speaking and see how argument is used across a variety of disciplines and the world beyond school.

## Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to

### Module 1

- Analyze and understand the main features of standards for argumentative writing and speaking called for by the Common Core standards.
- Critique current forms of persuasive writing and differentiate these from argumentative writing and speaking in light of Common Core standards.

### Module 2

- Understand the rhetorical elements and processes of argumentative writing, including establishing claims, construction and style, research, and presentation.
- Analyze how the specific elements of argumentative writing are used to accomplish a variety of tasks for different audiences, purposes, and occasions.

### Module 3

- Evaluate the effectiveness of argumentative writing elements within fiction and nonfiction literature for use as text-based evidence in students' own argumentative writing.

- Connect the teaching of argumentative writing to the analysis of important works of literature.

## Module 4

- Understand how the elements, organization, and purposes of argumentative writing can be applied within different content areas.
- Create instructional strategies that apply argumentative writing in a variety of content areas, such as history/social studies, mathematics, and science.

## Module 5

- Understand differences and similarities between argument used for formal events such as debates versus informal events such as class discussions.
- Develop instructional strategies around elements of audience, purpose, and occasion for use in a variety of argumentative speaking contexts.

## Module 6

- Analyze how argument presents itself in students' lives beyond school.
- Design a lesson to help students apply an understanding of how three key elements of argumentative writing and speaking—audience, occasion, and purpose—are used in everyday contexts beyond the classroom.

## Course Syllabus

<p><b>Module 1</b></p>	<p><b>Cultivating Argumentative Literacy for College and Careers</b></p> <p>Module Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading 1: Argumentative Writing and Speaking in an Academic Culture</li> <li>• Reading 2: <i>EL</i>—Reading, Writing, and Thinking for All</li> <li>• Video: Persuasive versus Argumentative Writing</li> <li>• Media: If You Teach or Write 5-Paragraph Essays—Stop It!</li> <li>• Check for Understanding</li> <li>• Application: Analyze Student Writing for Argumentative Rhetoric</li> </ul> <p>Module Journal</p>
<p><b>Module 2</b></p>	<p><b>The Elements of Argumentative Writing</b></p> <p>Module Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading 1: Teaching the Elements of Argument</li> <li>• Diagram: The Main Features of Argument</li> <li>• Video: The Toulmin Model of Argumentation</li> <li>• Reading 2: <i>EL</i>—For the Sake of Argument</li> <li>• Check for Understanding</li> <li>• Application: Inventory and Rate an Argument’s Structure and Elements</li> </ul> <p>Module Journal</p>
<p><b>Module 3</b></p>	<p><b>Argumentative Writing About Literature</b></p> <p>Module Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading 1: Revealing Elements of Argument in Literary Texts</li> <li>• Reading 2: <i>EL</i>— Beyond the Five-Paragraph Essay</li> <li>• Video 1: Using Texts to Back Up Claims</li> <li>• Video 2: Small-Group Writing</li> <li>• Check for Understanding</li> <li>• Application: Chart Analysis and Argumentative Writing Template for Literature</li> </ul> <p>Module Journal</p>

<p><b>Module 4</b></p>	<p><b>Argumentative Writing in the Content Areas</b></p> <p>Module Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading 1: <i>EL</i>— Argument Writing Across the Content Areas</li> <li>• Reading 2: Argument in the Content Areas: Honing the Counter Argument</li> <li>• Diagram: The Main Features of Argument</li> <li>• Video: The Discussion Web</li> <li>• Check for Understanding</li> <li>• Application: Analyze Argumentative Writing</li> </ul> <p>Module Journal</p>
<p><b>Module 5</b></p>	<p><b>Formal and Informal Argumentative Speaking</b></p> <p>Module Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading 1: Making a Place for Argumentative Speaking in the Classroom</li> <li>• Reading 2: <i>EL</i>— Clash! The World of Debate</li> <li>• Video 1: Collaboration and Critical Thinking</li> <li>• Reading 3: <i>EL</i>—“Think Like a Seminar”</li> <li>• Video 2: Socratic Seminar: Supporting Claims and Counterclaims</li> <li>• Reading 4: Generating Questions for Discussions and Seminars</li> <li>• Check for Understanding</li> <li>• Application: Using the Argumentative Speaking Evaluation Rubric</li> </ul> <p>Module Journal</p>
<p><b>Module 6</b></p>	<p><b>Argument Beyond the Classroom</b></p> <p>Module Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading 1: Revealing Argument Beyond the Classroom</li> <li>• Reading 2: Developing Reasoning Skills</li> <li>• Reading 3: <i>EL</i>—New Literacies and the Common Core</li> <li>• Video: Delivering and Evaluating Persuasive Speeches</li> <li>• Check for Understanding</li> <li>• Application: Analyzing and Evaluating Argument Beyond the Classroom</li> </ul> <p>Module Journal</p>

## Resources

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