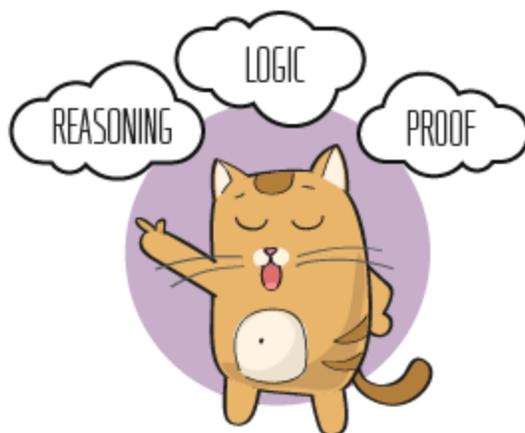


Study Guide for Unit 8

Writing an Argument



Course Outline

8. Writing an Argument

1. Writing an Argument Introduction
2. Developing Claims [Quick Check](#)
3. Opposing Claims [Quick Check](#)
4. Organizing Reasons and Evidence [Quick Check](#)
5. Identifying Credible Sources [Quick Check](#)
6. Claims, Reasons and Evidence [Quick Check](#)
7. Cohesion [Quick Check](#)
8. Concluding an Argument [Quick Check](#)
9. Writing an Argument: Portfolio 1
10. Writing an Argument: Portfolio 2
11. Writing an Argument: Portfolio 3 [Portfolio Item](#) [Practice](#)
12. Writing an Argument Review [Sample Work](#)
13. Writing an Argument Unit Test [Test](#)

***Unit 8 test is DROPPED!**

Explore

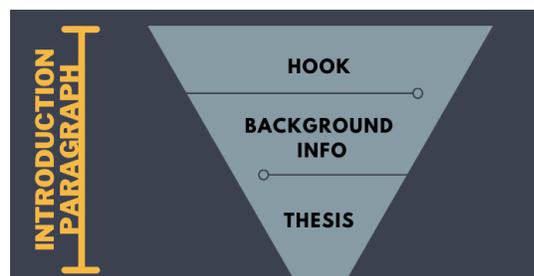
Practice

Unit 8 Vocabulary

https://www.flippity.net/fc.php?k=11w7UWbWJ5q-aPSi8hlyX4r7qUMcZlyd2PdIR3qW_iEg
[ASHCARDS!](#)

Introducing your argument

- Hook
 - Grab the reader’s attention with a strong opening statement
- Background information
 - Expand on your opening statement with the most relevant contextual information
- Thesis
 - State the central argument you want to make—your thesis statement



[Introduction paragraph](#)



- [How to write a thesis Video](#)

Identifying Credible Sources

Essential Ideas



[How to Evaluate Sources for Reliability](#)

Key Words:

Credible - accurate and believable
 Objective - factual and without bias or opinion
 Unbiased - fair; equal

What makes a source credible? Think CUES!
 The source should be **current** and **unbiased**.
 The author should be an **expert**. Lastly, the information should be **supported** with facts, data, graphs, charts, and other materials that indicate research into the topic.

Claims, Reasons, Evidence

Essential Ideas

Ask yourself...

Claim - statement of opinion
 Evidence - proof for a reason that supports a claim

Claim: *What do I think?*
Reason: *Why do I think it?*
Evidence: *How do I know?*

When writing an argument, start by making your **claim**. To support your claim, provide **reasons** why you believe your claim. Then, support each reason with **evidence** such as facts and details.

Counterarguments and Opposing claims

Examples

Your argumentative writing **MUST** address counterarguments or opposing claims!

- Counterargument:
 - an argument that addresses an opposing claim
- Opposing claims:
 - arguments that contradict each other



[Opposing viewpoints](#)

[Click here to enlarge picture](#)

What is Counter Argument?

A counterargument expresses the opposite point of view.

Argument: Kids should be in school year round--even in the summer!

Counter Argument: Kids should not have year round school, and should have summers off.

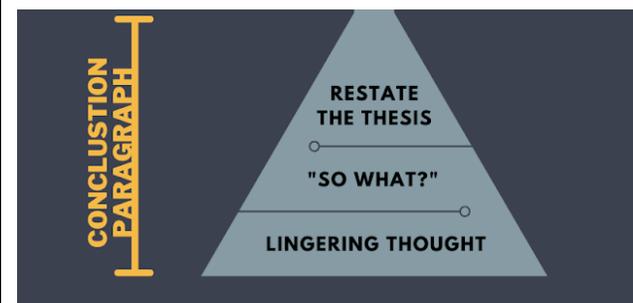
Concluding your argument

A good conclusion should achieve the following goals:

- Restating and summarizing the central idea or claim (thesis).
- Briefly explain how the reasons connect to the claim
- Brings all of the ideas together with an impactful final sentence.



[How to write a conclusion](#)



Example (color highlighted text indicates the parts of the conclusion paragraph shown below):

- Returns to your thesis
- Ties together your main points
- Shows why your argument matters

EXAMPLE:

Braille paved the way for dramatic cultural changes in the way blind people were treated and the opportunities available to them. Louis Braille's innovation was to reimagine existing reading systems from a blind perspective, and the success of this invention required sighted teachers to adapt to their students' reality instead of the other way around. In this sense, Braille helped drive broader social changes in the status of blindness. New accessibility tools provide practical

advantages to those who need them, but they can also change the perspectives and attitudes of those who do not.

Precise and formal language

Examples

[\(click to enlarge\)](#)

Precise Language

- Use specific words.
- General terms, such as “nice,” “good,” or “thing” are overused and make the writing dry and uninteresting.
- **Example:** *The man is good.*
- How is the man good? Is he compassionate? Is he generous? Is he equitable? *Merely stating that he is good does not tell the reader very much.*
- Effective writers use precise and descriptive terms. They choose words that are **specific** and that most closely capture their intended meaning.
- *On the CAHSEE, you will be given passages that use common, overused words and asked to substitute them with more precise and descriptive terms.*



[Precise language](#)

[\(click to enlarge\)](#)

Precise Words

Revise your writing to include precise words. Strive for specific verbs, concrete nouns, and vivid adjectives. Beware of unclear pronouns.

Unclear

The *man* asked for a *raise*.

An *employee* presented a *proposal*.

More Precise

Jeff Jones asked for a *10 percent salary increase*.

Kelly Keeler, production manager, presented a *plan to stagger hours*.

Mary Ellen Guffey, *Essentials of Business Communication*, 8e

Chapter 4, Slide 23