

Art of Argument

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students learn the art of persuasive writing, backed by careful research, and presented in an effective manner that is free of logical fallacies. They distinguish persuasive writing from other types of compositions, and learn how to apply persuasive writing and common textual features. They apply understanding of the effects of audience and purpose on persuasive writing. Students also evaluate persuasive writing and speaking for reputability, logic, and presentation.

Course Competencies

Art of Argument	
Competency 1	Distinguish persuasive writing from other types of compositions.
Sub-Topics	1. Observe and discuss unique features of persuasive writing. 2. Analyze persuasive texts.
Competency 2	Apply understanding of the effects of audience and purpose on persuasive writing.
Sub-Topics	1. Examine the effect of persuasive writing on political, editorial, and philosophical texts, as well as advertisements. 2. Create original texts designed for a specific audience and purpose.
Competency 3	Apply understanding of persuasive writing and common textual features.
Sub-Topics	1. Properly conduct and document research, using a standard format such as APA or MLA. 2. Define, identify, and learn to avoid logical fallacies in their personal persuasive writing.
Competency 4	Evaluate persuasive writing and speaking for reputability, logic, and presentation.
Sub-Topics	1. Analyze and evaluate sources from various authors and of various forms, including Websites, and determine how reputable each source is for using as a source. 2. Identify and discuss bias, inflammatory language, and faulty logic, and evaluate writing for instances of each. 3. Understand the concept of tone and the importance of portraying a professional and intelligent tone; analyze writing for its tone and the impact – positive or negative – that it has on the presentation of the argument. 4. Evaluate the presentation of arguments from others, including published authors; discuss how the argument is presented and how effective or ineffective the presentation is and why.