

ARGUMENT CHECKLIST

Instructions: As you reread your essay, use this checklist as a guide to evaluate your writing.

		NO	COULD BE BETTER	YES!
FOCUS/PURPOSE	I stated my claim clearly.			
	I stayed focused on my claim throughout the essay without going off topic.			
	I presented reasons and evidence that my audience will find convincing.			
CONTENT & DEVELOPMENT	I included at least three reasons/arguments to support my claim.			
	For each reason/argument, I included three or four examples of evidence from trusted sources.			
	I responded to readers' counterclaims with information about why my claim is more convincing.			
ORGANIZATION	I have an introduction that includes a hook, information about the issue, and my claim.			
	I have at least three supporting paragraphs. Each paragraph is about a new reason/argument.			
	I stated each reason/argument as the topic sentence of each supporting paragraph.			
	I ordered my paragraphs in a way that makes my argument most convincing (example: from least important reason to most important reason).			
	I have a strong concluding paragraph where I restate my claim, reasons and evidence in a new way. I tell readers what action they should take.			
	I use transitions between paragraphs to show how they are connected.			
	I use transitions between sentences in each of my paragraphs to show how evidence is connected to the reason.			
LANGUAGE USE & STYLE	I combined short, choppy sentences to make longer, more complex sentences.			
	I do not have any run-on sentences.			
	I use powerful persuasive words from the <u>word bank</u> to convince my reader to take action.			
	I maintain a formal tone throughout my essay.			
GRAMMAR & CONVENTIONS	I have read my essay to myself so that I can hear my mistakes and correct them. I made my reader SMILE by checking: Sentences: Each sentence has a subject and a verb (an action). Marks: End each sentence with a punctuation mark. Indents: Indent when you begin a new paragraph. Letters: Start each sentence with a capital letter.			