


**Arguing Effectively**  
In writing and in debate



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**Persuasive Essays**

- Well-constructed introductions
  - Capture the interest of your reader
  - Give appropriate background information
  - Summarize the ideas to be presented
  - Present a clear statement of thesis: your ARGUMENT
  - Present the WHAT and HOW of your argument - WHAT are you arguing and HOW will you prove your point?

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**Getting the Reader to Accept**

- Each paragraph of an essay should present a single unified idea or set of ideas to support your argument
- Paragraphs should build on one another
- Each main idea should be elaborated upon (explained further) with appropriate details
- Arguments must be logical

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### Conclusions of Papers

- Restate the paper’s argument
- Restate how you have supported that argument
- Draws together the “threads” of the paper’s arguments and shows where your paper has gone
- Remind the reader why the topic is important

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### Solid oral debates

- Are based on solid written preparatory notes
- Have a central arguing point and thesis, much like an essay
- Have a series of “points” that support the thesis
- Have strong supporting evidence for each point
  - Facts
  - Figures
  - Pictures and drawings
  - True stories
  - Examples

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### A logical argument...

- Is based on fact, not only opinion
- Can be supported with evidence that is irrefutable (cannot be argued with as untrue - people may not like it, but that cannot argue with its truth)
- Has no “holes” in it that people can “pick out” because the argument is “incomplete”

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**Try this argument**

- In your squads, prepare an argument to present to the class on the following topic:

***People should be allowed to burn the American Flag in protest***

Remember the First Amendment right to free speech

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