

Checklist for Argument/Opinion Writing in Lower and Middle Grades

BEFORE the essay:

* Is your research complete? If research is not needed, do you have at least 3 ideas that clearly support your opinion?

☐

I have enough research about my topic to provide at least three details or examples to support my opinion.

☐

I have put the details and examples for my topic into logical groups.

☐

I have a strong opinion for my essay.

☐

I understand that this is an argument/opinion essay, so it should have a formal style. I know that I need to present my opinion and supporting ideas in a way that invites my readers to understand and appreciate my point of view.

The BEGINING of the essay:

* Did you clearly state your opinion?

☐

I used clear, formal language in my opening paragraph.

☐

I engaged my reader with a question, an interesting or exciting fact, or a surprising piece of information.

☐

I used language that will inspire my reader to understand and appreciate my opinion.

The BODY of your essay:

- ☐ Did you organize your supporting ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections?
- ☐ Did you include three very different ideas or facts to support your opinion?
- ☐ Did you develop your essay with well-chosen, important facts, details, and examples?
- ☐ Did you use precise language throughout your essay? Remember that precise language is EXACT language. Did you say exactly what you meant? You do not want your reader to be confused.
- ☐ Did you use quotations when possible? (This is usually only possible if you have time to do research.)
- ☐ Did you maintain a formal style throughout the essay? This does NOT mean that your essay needs to be dry and boring. Be sure your own voice shines through. Your writing can maintain a formal tone while also maintaining your reader's attention.
- ☐ Did you use transitions throughout your essay?

The CONCLUSION of the essay:

- ☐ Did you provide a conclusion that restates your opinion?