



# Grade 8 Writer's Checklist: Argumentative

The checklist below is provided to students during testing in both the online testing platform and the printed test booklet. This page may be printed for instructional use during the school year, but it MAY NOT be used as scratch paper during test administration.

## **Be sure to:**

- Introduce your claim.
- Support your claim with logical reasons and relevant evidence from the passages.
- Acknowledge and address alternate or opposing claims.
- Organize the reasons and evidence logically.
- Develop your ideas clearly and use your own words, except when quoting directly from the passages.
- Identify the passages by title or number when using details or facts directly from the passages.
- Use words, phrases, or clauses to connect ideas and to clarify the relationships among claims, counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Use clear language and vocabulary.
- Provide a conclusion that supports the argument presented.
- Check your work for correct usage, grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

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**Be sure to:**

- Introduce the topic clearly, provide a focus, and organize information in a way that makes sense.
- Use information from the two passages so that your essay includes important details.
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.
- Identify the passages by title or number when using details or facts directly from the passages.
- Develop your ideas clearly and use your own words, except when quoting directly from the passages.
- Use appropriate and varied transitions to connect ideas and to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- Use clear language and vocabulary.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a conclusion that supports the information presented.
- Check your work for correct usage, grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

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**Be sure to:**

- Write a narrative response that develops a real or imagined experience.
- Establish a context for the experience and a point of view.
- Introduce a narrator and/or characters.
- Organize events in a natural and logical order.
  - Use a variety of transitions to sequence the events, to indicate shifts from one time frame or setting to another, and to show the relationships between the events.
- Use dialogue, description, pacing, and/or reflection to:
  - develop events.
  - develop characters.
  - develop experiences.
- Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to communicate the action and to describe the events.
- Include a conclusion that reflects on the experience in your narrative.
- Use ideas and/or details from the passage(s).
- Check your work for correct usage, grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.