

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Argumentative Paragraph Self-Assessment

Label the elements of argumentation in the argumentative paragraph you wrote on the first day of school.

Underline your **claim**.

Is the claim a single, simple sentence?

- It should not contain the word *because* or any explanation beyond the claim itself.

Circle the specific, **textual evidence** you offer in support of your claim. You should have at least two, and you should indicate where they came from (**cite sources**).

- Actual quotations from disclosure.
- Specific paraphrasing of something in the letters or the conversation.

Draw a line from the textual evidence to the **reasoning** that explains it.

- Sound reasoning explains why the evidence supports the theme.
- Logic is clearly spelled out.

Label the **counterargument** and **rebuttal**.

Check for the following elements of writing:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Attention getter
- \_\_\_\_\_ Transitional words/phrases
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conclusion statement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Varied sentence length and structure
- \_\_\_\_\_ Correct spelling and punctuation

Now revise the paragraph for a quality score.

Sample:

I feel like I am standing on the 10-meter high dive, looking down at the pool below. It is a long drop, and part of me is terrified that I will accidentally fall off, but there is another part of me that still wants to try this jump. This class is that high dive, and it is going to be academically demanding. A letter writer named Ashton wrote, "Thompson's class is hard, no question about it. You have to read a lot on your own time, and you will write in class literally every day...even on the last day of school, which is when I am writing this letter!" In other words, the class involves a lot of work and effort, which is part of what it means to be academically demanding. Besides all the books listed on the disclosure, Thompson writes this in the reading policy: "...in order to earn reading points, students have to read two books each term." He goes on to explain that most of this reading should happen on our own time. Most people would agree that this is a lot of reading to complete when you also have to complete assignments for seven other classes. Some people who read all the time and have an easy time writing papers might say that this class is actually pretty easy because many of the letters seemed to indicate that it was often entertaining, but I am not one of those people. I think most people struggle with reading and writing skills, so while I see how the class might be simple for certain people, I think most ninth graders will find it difficult. So, here I am on that high dive, staring down into the water below. Now it's time to jump into this academically challenging class. Geronimo!

attention  
getter 7

BACKGROUND  
INFO.

claim

TEXTUAL  
EVIDENCE #1

source  
#1

REASONING  
#1

TEXTUAL  
EVIDENCE #2

source  
#2

REASONING  
#2

counterclaim

REBUTTAL

conclusion