

*Argument*

*Essays*



**Ashan R. Hampton**

# What is Argument?

- ▶ **Definition:** to convince an audience to accept a particular point of view or to perform a particular action.
- ▶ **A piece of writing that:**
  - 1) takes a position on an issue
  - 2) proves the position with facts and persuasion.



# What is Argument?

- ▶ **CCS:** Write an **argument essay** that takes a **position** on an **issue**, using valid reasoning, supported by sufficient evidence.
- ▶ **Issue:** The topic or the subject of the argument.
- ▶ **Position:** Your opinion or stance on an issue.



# What is Argument?

- ▶ **CCS:** Write an argument essay that takes a position on an issue, using **valid reasoning**, supported by **sufficient evidence**.
- ▶ **Valid Reasoning:**
  - ▶ Your ideas (claims) make logical sense to most readers.
  - ▶ All of your main points explain your position without getting off track.
- ▶ **Sufficient Evidence:**
  - ▶ Using facts, outside research from experts and illustrative examples to fully explain and support your main points.

# Argument Essay Guidelines

- ▶ The topic must be debatable: For or Against.
- ▶ **Remember**, there are two sides to every argument.
- ▶ Your position is also called your thesis.

## Example:

- ▶ **ISSUE (Topic):** Standardized testing in public schools
- ▶ **POSITION/ Thesis (FOR):** School districts should rely on standardized tests to determine student learning.
- ▶ **POSITION/ Thesis (AGAINST):** School districts should not rely on standardized tests to determine student learning.

# Issue/ Topic: Who is the Queen of Rap Music?



**Nicki Minaj**



**Lil Kim**

**First**, make a decision between the two.

# Issue/ Topic: Who is the Queen of Rap Music?



**Nicki Minaj**

**Next**, state your position.

Write down **3**  
**good**  
reasons:



I think Nicki Minaj is the queen of rap music, because ...

1. Her albums have sold millions of copies.
2. Her songs have topped music charts.
3. Her career achievements are highly recognized.

# Issue/ Topic: Who is the Queen of Rap Music?



**Nicki Minaj**

**Next**, write your thesis.

Nicki Minaj is the queen of rap music, because of her **album sales**, **industry recognitions** and **career achievements**.

**3**

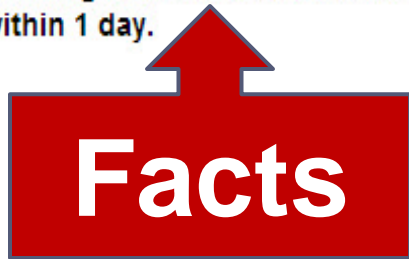
**Point Thesis**



# Types of Support for Argument

- ▶ **Facts:** Evidence based on objective data regarding a truthful occurrence.

Your students shouldn't wait for their test scores. They need their results so they can start studying for their next test or apply to college or a job. Since the GED® test's initial analysis period (IAP) ended in June, **85% of students get their test scores back within 1 hour of finishing their test. And 95% of students get their scores within 1 day.**



- ▶ **Refer to an Authority:** An authority is **an expert** – an **individual** or **organization** – that can be relied on to give unbiased facts and information.
- ▶ **Anecdotes or illustrative examples:** Media examples or personal stories should clearly relate to the argument.

# Supporting Evidence



**Nicki Minaj**

Find sufficient evidence to support your claims.

1. Her albums have sold millions of copies.
2. Her songs have topped music charts.
3. Her career achievements are highly recognized.

**Nicki Minaj's 'Roman Reloaded' Debuts at No. 1 on Billboard 200**

<http://www.billboard.com/articles/news/496716/nicki-minajs-roman-reloaded-debuts-at-no-1-on-billboard-200>

# Types of Support for Argument

- ▶ **Predicting the Consequence:** helps the reader visualize the consequences or what will occur if something does or does not happen.
- ▶ **Answering the Opposition:** Anticipate the counterarguments of critics or opposers to your point of view.



# Argument Reminders

- ▶ In an argument, you must take an identifiable position on your topic.
- ▶ The thesis will state your position.
- ▶ Clearly and logically support your position with a combination of facts, expert opinions, and examples.
- ▶ An effective argument will also answer the opposition and predict consequences.

