Argumentation sheet

Name:

Statement:

Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Argue (give reasons & evidence) in support of your position. Then, anticipate the opposition’s arguments. Lastly, put it all together in a comment.

YOUR ARGUMENTS

COUNTER-ARGUMENTS

**Part I: Write down your arguments**

Take a stance for/against the statement. Support your reasons with evidence, facts, and relevant examples.

Anticipate how someone who disagrees might respond: interpret your evidence differently, point to drawbacks or false assumptions.

My stance:

Yes/For/agree

No/Against/Disagree

OPPOSING ARGUMENTS

REBUTTALS

**Part II: Anticipate the other sides arguments**

Look at it from the other side’s perspective and anticipate what arguments the opposition will make.

Defend your position. Refute the opposing argument by showing how/why it is invalid, illogical, or irrelevant.

Imagine reading the statement in a newspaper article, and then deciding to express your point of view in the comment section of the newspaper's website. Use connectors to combine your arguments, and to connect them with those of the opposition’s arguments.

**Part III: Leave a comment**

**Connectors**

Alternatively

Although

However

In contrast

In spite of the fact that

On the other hand

**Adversative connectives:**

**Use these to signal that two statements contradict each other.**

Again

Also

Further

Furthermore

In addition

Moreover

**Additive connectives:**

**Use these to signal that the two statements are similar.**

Because

Consequently

Hence

Since

Therefore

Thus

**Causal connectives:**

**Use these to signal that one thing leads to another (cause-effect).**

**Example:** Although Mars is similar to the Earth in many ways, its surface is hostile to humans.

**Example:** The air on Mars contains mostly carbon dioxide. Therefore, humans would not be able to breathe there.

**Example:** Going to Mars would be dangerous. Also, it would be expensive.

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**Comment**