Argument

An argument is a reasoned, logical way of demonstrating that the writer's position, belief, or conclusion is valid.

Arguments are used for many purposes—
- to change the reader's point of view
- to bring about some action on the reader's part
- to ask the reader to accept the writer's explanation or evaluation of a concept, issue, or problem.

In English language arts, students
- make claims about the worth or meaning of a literary work or works
- defend their interpretations or judgments with evidence from the text(s)

In history/social studies, students
- analyze evidence from multiple primary and secondary sources to advance a claim that is best supported by the evidence
- argue for a historically or empirically situated interpretation

In science, students
- make claims in the form of statements or conclusions that answer questions or address problems
- marshal evidence and draw on their understanding of scientific concepts to argue in support of their claims
- use data in a scientifically acceptable form to support their claims

Because an argument deals with whether the main claim is true, it demands empirical descriptive evidence, statistics, or definitions for support. When writing an argument, the writer supports his or her claim(s) with sound reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

List the types of arguments (written and oral) used in your content area:

Informational/Explanatory Writing

Informational/explanatory writing conveys information accurately. This kind of writing serves one or more closely related purposes:
- to increase readers' knowledge of a subject
- to help readers better understand a procedure or process
- to provide readers with an enhanced comprehension of a concept

Information writing focuses on answering questions about types, components, size, function, behavior how things work, and why things happen.
- What are the different types of poetry? (type)
- What are the parts of a motor? (component)
- How big is the US? (size)
- What is an X-ray used for? (function)
- How do penguins find food? (behavior)
- How does the legislative branch work? (how/work)
- Why do some authors blend genres? (why/happen)

To produce this kind of writing, students
- draw from what they already know and from primary and secondary sources.
- develop a controlling idea and a coherent focus on a topic
- select and incorporate relevant examples, facts, and details
- use a variety of techniques to convey information
    - naming
    - defining
    - describing
    - differentiating different types or parts
    - comparing or contrasting ideas or concepts
    - citing an anecdote or a scenario to illustrate a point

Informational/explanatory writing includes a wide array of genres, including academic genres such as literary analyses, scientific and historical reports, summaries, and precis writing as well as forms of workplace and functional writing such as instructions, manuals, memos, reports, applications, and resumes.

List the types of informational/explanatory texts (written and oral) used in your content area:

Narrative Writing

Narrative writing conveys experience, either real or imaginary, and uses time as its deep structure. It can be used for many purposes, such as to inform, instruct, persuade, or entertain.

In English language arts, students produce narratives (fictional stories, memoirs, anecdotes, and autobiographies, etc.)
- learn both structure of narrative
- to provide visual details of scenes, objects, or people;
- to depict specific actions (for example, movements, gestures, postures, and expressions)
- to use dialogue and interior monologue that provide insight into the narrator's and characters' personalities and motives
- to manipulate pace to highlight the significance of events and create tension and suspense.

In history/social studies, students write narrative accounts about individuals & events
- construct event models of what happened
- select from their sources only the most relevant information to incorporate

In science, students write narrative descriptions of
- the step-by-step procedures they follow in their investigations

With practice, students in each content area expand their repertoire and control of different narrative strategies. (purpose & audience)

List the types of narrative (written and oral) used in your content area: