

Argumentative Essay/Research Paper: Editor's Checklist

Note to Parent/Evaluators: Thank you for helping your student revise the argumentative essay/research paper. This is a multi-step process that involves many language skills, so the final product should represent not only that the student learned content but also that s/he knows how to structure and document a written argument. *What you are reading is not the final draft.* Please read and discuss this draft with your student, and then fill out the checklist below. Grades will NOT be assigned based on the number of "yes" responses, so please give honest feedback that will help your student improve later drafts. Students should be able to define any terms you are not familiar with and explain the structure of an argumentative essay as well as any research terms. Thank you!

Students: You need to revise your research paper based on the comments from your editor. You will not print a "final draft" until AFTER your editor has completed this checklist and you have made all necessary corrections. The paper you turn in for final scoring needs to be as close to perfect as you can make it, so this checklist is not the last step in the process. Consider the suggestions of your editors as you revise.

Writer: _____

Evaluator: _____

Introduction...

- ...begins with an **attention getter** ("hook") that draws the reader in to the essay. yes no
- ...provides **background information** so unfamiliar readers can still follow the argument. yes no
- ...is written in the third-person (no "I" or "you" statements; definitely *No Bubbas!*). yes no
- ...contains a **clearly stated thesis** (an arguable statement that the essay will prove)... yes no
 - ...at the end of the introductory paragraph. yes no

Thesis: _____

Body Paragraphs...

- ...contain clear **claims** that serve as **topic sentences**... yes no
 - ...that **support the thesis** made in the introductory paragraph. yes no
- ...make a point and **do NOT just retell the story** of the myth. yes no
- ...contain **textual evidence** (examples/quotes/summaries from sources) to support claim. yes no
- ...contain **warrants** that illustrate logical reasons the textual evidence supports the claim. yes no
- ...contain appropriate **transitions** between examples/quotes/summaries. yes no
- ...address **counterclaims** or non-examples (other myths that do not support the claim) yes no
- ...contain a **conclusion or transition statement** to the next reason. yes no
- ...are written in the third-person (no "I" or "you" statements). yes no
- ...contain properly formatted **parenthetical documentation**... yes no
 - ...that refers to sources listed on the Works Cited page. yes no

Number of body paragraphs between the introductory paragraph and the conclusion paragraph: _____

Parenthetical Documentation (in-text citations)...

- ...is evident in the body of the essay (seven or more citations). yes no
- ...includes proper elements (first word of Works Cited entry)... yes no
 - ...for books: author's last name and page number (Hamilton 34). yes no
 - ...for websites: author's last name only (Skidmore). yes no
 - ...for sources with no author: title of article in quotes ("Zeus"). yes no
- ...is properly spaced: one space after end of sentence, like this (Smith). yes no
- ...is properly punctuated: period at the end, like this (Thompson). yes no

Conclusion Paragraph...

- ...restates the thesis in different words. yes no
- ...summarizes claims made in the body paragraphs. yes no
- ...ends with a memorable clincher statement/refers back to opening. yes no

Works Cited Page...

- ...is on a separate page. yes no
- ...was created using Citation Builder or KnightCite. yes no
- ...is properly formatted: spacing, punctuation, indenting (after first line). yes no
- ...is properly alphabetized (by first word of entry). yes no
- ...contains proper spelling and punctuation. yes no
- ...contains proper italicizing (not underlining) of book and movie titles. yes no
- ...contains at least three books and one website. yes no
- ...looks neat and professional. yes no

What is the best part of this writing? Why? _____

Make one specific suggestion for improvement: _____

Stylistic Details:

- The writing is neatly typed, spell-checked, and free of errors. yes no
- The writing contains an appropriate title that relates to the topic. yes no
- The title is properly centered and formatted (same font size as essay). yes no
- The writing does NOT capitalize the words *god* and *goddess* (for myths). yes no
- The writing is more than a retelling of the myth. yes no
- The writing presents an effective argument that illustrates a truth. yes no
- The writing appears to be a best effort. yes no

Students: Discuss your essay with a peer evaluator and one of your parents *before* you complete the final draft. Staple this checklist to the final draft.

Parent/Evaluator Signature: _____