


# Argumentative Essay Unit: Claims and Evidence

**Objective:** Students plan and write argumentative essays from scratch, focusing on presenting strong claims and supporting them with factual evidence.

**Prompt:** Should the United States continue to use paper money?

 You can replace this prompt with your own in any activity (or use [our assignment library](#))!

**Duration:** 4–7 class periods, or fewer with homework

## Pre-Write

1–2 class periods



**Quick Write:** [Argumentative Essay Thesis Brainstorm](#)

Students brainstorm their thoughts on the prompt and choose a thesis to support.



10–15  
minutes



**Practice:** [Choosing Evidence](#)

Before or during the research process, students practice choosing strong evidence.

20–50  
minutes


**Topics:** Finding Evidence to Support a Claim   
Using Strong Evidence to Support a Claim 



**Graphic Organizer:** [Outlining](#)

Students plan their essays by organizing their claims and evidence.

10–15  
minutes

 This time estimate includes outlining only; allow extra time for research if needed.

## Draft

2–3 class periods



**Guided Draft:** [Argumentative Essay](#) 

Students draft a full argumentative essay with the support of targeted tips.

120–180  
minutes

**Rubric:** Thesis statement is a controversial opinion  
Each topic sentence is a claim that supports the thesis  
Each piece of evidence is a fact that supports the claim  
Reasoning connects the evidence to the claim

## Revise


1–2 class periods




**Peer Review:** [Body Paragraph](#)

Students submit one body paragraph for anonymous feedback from five classmates.

30–90  
minutes

**Rubric** Topic sentence is a claim   
Evidence is a fact that supports the claim  
Paragraph is convincing

 If your students aren't ready to rate on these criteria, consider updating the “Who can rate?” option to “Only students who have mastered....” You'll be prompted to assign relevant practice.