

Composition



In an **argument**, a writer attempts to persuade an audience to agree with a position or to take action on an issue. An effective argument presents a claim and provides a structured array of supporting evidence, including a variety of details and examples.

ASSIGNMENT

Work independently to write a brief **argument** in which you present a claim along with well-structured supporting details and examples. Choose one of these ideas to develop further:

- **If Judith Lived Today . . .** Establish a position on this statement: *Today, Shakespeare’s imaginary sister, Judith, would not face any obstacles to success.* Write an argument in which you state and support your claim, drawing on real-life examples as well as on details from Woolf’s essay.
- **Judith’s Decision** Did Judith make the right decision? Was her dash for freedom and fulfillment worth it? Write an argument stating and defending your claim. Draw on details and examples from “Shakespeare’s Sister.”

Plan and Draft Use the characteristics of an effective argument:

- Formulate a claim that clearly sets forth your main idea.
- Gather evidence, including facts, details, and examples, to support ideas.
- Structure your argument effectively. Lead off with an engaging introduction, present a logical flow of ideas, and end with a convincing conclusion. Make sure your supporting ideas and evidence prove your claim and that your explanations show in-depth analysis and valid reasoning.

Share and Revise Share a draft of your argument with your group. Use a chart like the one shown to record suggestions from group members about aspects of your writing that could be improved. Then, revise your argument, taking your peers’ feedback into consideration.

| ASPECT OF WRITING | FEEDBACK |
|---|----------|
| Purpose and Clarity: Is my purpose for writing evident? Is my argument strong, focused, and clear? | |
| Engaging Ideas: Have I included engaging ideas to draw my audience’s attention? | |
| In-Depth Analysis: Have I included varied types of evidence, such as textual details and vivid examples? | |
| Structure: Have I organized my ideas effectively? | |
| Style: Do my stylistic choices make my unique writerly voice shine through? Is my tone appropriate for academic writing? | |

TIP

Strong arguments develop **engaging ideas** that attract and keep the audience’s attention and interest. Engaging ideas should demonstrate in-depth analysis and originality.

- Consider posing questions in your argument that require your audience to think deeply about your claim.
- Also, try making connections to your audience by pointing out ways in which the issue you are arguing matters in today’s world.

EQ NOTES

Before moving on to a new selection, go to your Essential Question Notes and record any additional thoughts and observations you may have about “Shakespeare’s Sister.”