Evidence-Based Arguments Checklist

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| **Name:** |  | **Class:** |  | **Date:** |  |

**Text:**

| **Argument Sections** | **Section Components** | **☐** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Content and Analysis** | **Clarity and Relevance:** Purposefully states a central claim that is linked to a clearly identified context (topic, problem, issue) that establishes its relevance. | ☐ |  |
| **Conformity to Sources:** Presents a perspective that arises from ideas and evidence found in a range of diverse, credible, and significant sources. | ☐ |  |
| **Understanding of the Issue:** Presents a perspective based on a comprehensive understanding of the issue, and establishes a series of valid claims that emerge from reasoned analysis. | ☐ |  |
| **Acknowledgement of Other Perspectives:** Recognizes opposing or alternate claims and distinguishes these claims from the stated perspective. | ☐ |  |
| **Command of Evidence** | **Reasoning:** Links evidence and claims together logically in ways that lead to the conclusions expressed in the central claim. | ☐ |  |
| **Use of Evidence:** Supports the central claim and each supporting claim with valid inferences based on credible evidence. | ☐ |  |
| **Thoroughness and Objectivity:** Represents a comprehensive understanding of the issue where the argument’s claims and supporting evidence fairly addresses relevant counterclaims and discusses conflicting evidence. | ☐ |  |
| **Coherence and Organization** | **Relationship Among Parts:** Establishes clear and logical relationships between supporting claims and a central claim.  | ☐ |  |
| **Effectiveness of Structure:** Adopts an organizational strategy, including an introduction and conclusion, which clearly and compellingly communicates the argument.  | ☐ |  |
| **Control of Language and Conventions** | **Clarity of Communication:** Is communicated clearly and coherently. The writer’s opinions are clearly distinguished from objective summaries and statements.  | ☐ |  |
| **Word Choice/Vocabulary:** Uses topic-specific terminology appropriately and precisely.  | ☐ |  |
| **Style/Voice:** Maintains a formal and objective tone appropriate to the intended audience. The use of words, phrases, clauses, and varied syntax draws attention to key ideas and reinforces relationships among ideas.  | ☐ |  |
| **Responsible Use of Evidence:** Cites evidence in a responsible manner that anticipates the audience’s knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases. Quotes sufficient evidence exactly, or paraphrases accurately, referencing precisely where the evidence can be found. | ☐ |  |
| **Conventions of Writing:** Illustrates consistent command of standard, grade-level-appropriate writing conventions. | ☐ |  |

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