



Keys to Argument Writing

Description: This professional development extends the information about opinion/argument writing that is presented in *Keys to Content Writing*. During professional development, educators learn instructional practices that address the grades 4-5 opinion writing and grades 6-12 argument writing standards of the Common Core. They learn how to teach students how to write sound arguments using text evidence in any subject area.

- Expectations of the Common Core opinion/argument writing standards
- Differences between argument and persuasive writing
- Argument components: claim, counterclaim, reasons, evidence, rebuttal
- Argument text structure, including introduction, body development, and conclusion
- Use of linking words and phrases
- Comprehension and critical thinking required to support an argument
- Gathering evidence from sources into notes
- Analyzing models of argument writing
- Planning an argument writing assignment

These instructional practices have been identified consistently in the research literature as most effective for improving student writing skills.

Who Should Participate: Grades 4-5 elementary teachers, grades 6-12 content classroom teachers, educators who provide support to struggling readers, literacy specialists and coaches, and grades 4-12 administrators.

For more information, please contact:

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