Argumentative Essay: Research Guide

What sources can I use?

You should use a variety of sources. You can use books, websites, magazine articles, studies by researchers, and many other types of sources.

How many sources do I need?

You need at least 5 sources. No more than 2 of the 5 sources can be websites. This does not include newspaper, magazine, or journal articles that you access on the web.

Where do I find these sources?

Print Sources

- **Genoa's Library**: As you probably already know, Mrs. McDaniel is awesome! She can help you find books related to your topic. However, for many topics, you will not be able to find related books in our library.
- **Westerville Public Library**: If you do not have a library card, Mrs. McDaniel has forms in the library. Fill out the form and she will send it to the public library!

Web

- **Google/Bing searches**: Use your online searching skills to find information about your topic. The Effective and Efficient Searching notes are posted in the Files/Links section of Schoology. For a website, you need to evaluate the credibility of the site (Identifying High Quality Sources notes are posted in Files/Links).
  - **Note**: Most newspapers, magazines, and journals have online archives – so you can locate articles on the web.
- **INFOhio**: This is the BEST resource!
  - Use the following link: [http://www.infohio.org/](http://www.infohio.org/) or type INFOhio in your search bar.
  - Once you are on the site, click Grades 6-8, which will lead you to a list of resources/databases.
  - Notes on INFOhio resources:
    - **Consumer Health Complete**: This resource will be useful if your topic is health-related.
    - **EBSCO All Database Search**: This resource will be useful to EVERYONE! Use this resource to find magazine, newspaper, and journal articles. Once you click the link, you can check the select all box to search in all databases or check the boxes of specific databases to refine your search.
    - **Points of View Reference Center**: This is a perfect resource for an argumentative essay!
- **Science Reference Center**: This resource will be useful if your topic is science-related.
- **Student Research Center from EBSCO (Grades 6-8)**: This is another great resource! After you click the link, you have the option to select what types of sources you want to find (magazines, radio & TV news transcripts, primary source documents, etc.)

*Note: In all INFOhio resources/databases, you will need to use your searching skills to find information.

**What information am I looking for?**

To support your claim, you need 3 reasons (evidence) – which will make up the 3 body paragraphs of your essay. Additionally, you need to include the **counterclaim** in your essay. Therefore, you need to pay attention to the other side of the argument as well.

- Read through the source to decide whether or not it will be useful.
- Unless you find a **memorable** quote, **paraphrase** the information. This will make your life much easier when you write the actual essay – and it will help you avoid plagiarism!
- Keep track of your sources (including page numbers) as you take notes. Again, it will make your life MUCH easier when you write your essay!

*Note: When you write your essay, you might not use all of the sources that you read and took notes on – that’s okay!

**How should I set up my note cards?**

**Front side:**

| Your name |
| Source information (all of the info that you would need to cite the source) |

**Lined side:**

| Paraphrased (unless it’s a memorable quote!) information from the source |

**Tip:** After you use a source once and record the full source information, you can shorten the source name (give a nickname!) or assign a number to the source.