



## How to Evaluate Your Own Argument: A Checklist

Use the following checklist to help you write your argument. Look through the list before you start your draft. After you have written your draft, check each box to ensure you have crafted a quality argument.

I have explained the issue. My audience understands the debate I am participating in.

I have conveyed the urgency of the issue. I have shown that there is a clear need for an argument.

I have stated my claim clearly and concisely.

I have introduced the reasons and evidence that will support my claim.

My evidence is arranged persuasively. The order of my argument enhances its persuasiveness for my audience.

I use credible, authoritative sources to support my claims.

I have supported my claims thoroughly. I have not left out important evidence.

I have avoided the trap of letting evidence speak for itself. I have made the connection between my claim and the evidence clear for my audience.

I have qualified (or moderated) my claim

I have fairly represented the opposing viewpoints.

I have offered counterpoints and refutations. My counterpoints are supported by evidence.

My argument seeks common ground with the opposing viewpoint. My solutions aim for a better future for both sides of the debate.

My argument is ethical, moral, and legal. I do not seek to "win" my argument while ignoring how groups might be adversely affected.

\_\_\_ I have presented my argument as a tool for gaining further understanding of the issue. I haven't pretended that my argument is the final (or even only) solution, but rather a way toward gaining consensus on an important issue.

\_\_\_ The style and diction of my argument is suitable to my audience.

\_\_\_ I have given the draft of my argument to someone else for feedback.

\_\_\_ I have used feedback and suggestions to strengthen my argument.

