



Build-an-Argument Gallery Walk

Duration: 60-90 minutes | **Overview:** Students work in small groups or as a class to build an argument step-by-step.

Steps:

1. Decide whether to work as a whole-class or to split students into smaller groups of 3-4. (Choose whole-class work if students need more scaffolding and small-group work if students need less scaffolding.)
2. Post (at least) 6 large pieces of chart paper around the room. (If you don't have room in your classroom, consider moving to the library, the cafeteria, or the hallway.)
3. Give each piece a paper a label: Claim, Evidence + Reason (Quotes), Evidence + Reason(Facts), Evidence + Reason (Examples), Counterclaims, Evidence Groups, Organization.
4. Using the topic the class is currently studying, ask students to collaborate on developing a claim. (This can be done as a whole class in a think-pair-share or within small groups.)
5. Write the claim on the "claim" piece of chart paper.
6. Ask students to get up, walk around the room, and add to the various pieces of evidence chart paper and the counterclaim chart paper. Remind them:
 - They should be evaluating evidence before they add it to the chart paper.
 - They should think exhaustively about evidence and counterclaims – there is no "right" amount of evidence. They should gather as much evidence as possible.
7. When all evidence has been gathered and recorded, students should use the Evidence Groups and Organization chart paper to group evidence and then put it in an order for presentation.

Variation and Extensions:

- Add additional evidence categories that meet the needs of your class or assignment! We are suggesting the three biggest, broadest categories above, but you should customize them as needed!
- This can be fun extended practice, or it can be more formally assessed.
- When completed as a small group, this is a perfect brainstorming activity to prepare for a team debate.
- It's also a great first step toward writing an evidence-based argument. When you are ready to take it to the next level, let students use the argument built through this activity to begin writing their arguments.