**Argumentative Letter Assignment**

Write an argumentative letter to your principal, your peers, or a parent/guardian. You must support your thesis, claim, or opinion. Choose a topic that is important to *you*!

Focus:

* Create a clear claim. Explain the issue and take a clear position on it.
* Create strong arguments to support your claim.
* Use writing that is appropriate for your audience.

Content Development:

* Show that your opinion is valid by using Aristotle’s Appeals:
  + Ethos: Show that you are fair, knowledgeable, and trustworthy. (Also show that you are considerate of your readers’ counterarguments by anticipating them.)
  + Logos: Give good reasons. (Show that you have put a lot of thought into this issue. Give details and examples. Use facts and statistics. Refer to what “experts” have said.)
  + (Optional) Pathos: Involve your readers’ emotions.
* Mention and respond to your audience’s potentially opposing viewpoints.

Organization:

* Begin your introduction with an attention grabber (famous quote, exciting question, shocking statement, descriptive image, interesting fact or statistic, or other).
* End your introduction with a claim/thesis statement: A sentence that explains what your thesis, claim or opinion is.
* Write the body paragraphs, each with its own point(s) that supports your claim.
* Include helpful, meaningful transitions.
* Repeat your claim in your conclusion.
* End with a memorable statement.

Style:

* Use precise word choice and write concisely.
* Vary sentence structure: simple, compound, complex.
* Use strong words; avoid weak words and phrases like “maybe,” “probably,” and “I think.”

Conventions

* Write in complete sentences (no sentence fragments).
* Demonstrate your knowledge of proper writing conventions (grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation).