**Key Terms for Argument**

**Argument**

* In life- conflicts engaged in using language.
* In writing - opinions that can be backed up with evidence.

**Persuasion –** to move another person or group to agree with a belief or position through argument, appeal, or course of action.

**Fact –** information that is certain and can be proven.

**Debatable Claim** – an opinion that is a matter of personal experience and values that must be backed up with evidence. Others can disagree with this claim.

**Counter-claim-** An argument that opposes the claim

**Evidence**- details, facts, and reasons that directly relate to and support a debatable claim.

**Anecdotal Evidence**- evidence based on personal observation and experience, often in the form of a brief story. Can come from the writer, friends, family, and acquaintances.

**Factual Evidence**- data, confirmed facts, and research performed by experts. Found by the writer performing research.

**Commentary –** sentences in an argument paragraph that explain what is important about the evidence and tell the reader how it proves and supports the claim.

**Topic Sentences –** the first sentence of a paragraph that provides a promise to the reader about what is to come. In an argument paragraph, the topic sentence must contain a debatable claim and should provide a sense of the evidence that is to come.

**Subordinating Conjunctions –** words and phrases such as because, even though, since, if, when, and while are helpful in crafting commentary and topic sentences because they point to the relationship between the claim and the evidence.