

## STARTING POINTS: ARGUING A POSITION

### A Focused, Well-Presented Issue

How do I come up with an issue to write about?

- Consider possible topics: Issues concerning fairness. (p. 247)
- Consider possible topics: Issues facing students. (p. 252)
- Consider possible topics: Issues concerning privacy. (p. 259)
- Choose a controversial issue on which to take a position. (pp. 263–64)
- Test Your Choice: Choosing an Issue (p. 264)

How can I effectively frame the issue for my readers?

- Assess the genre's basic features: A focused, well-presented issue. (pp. 232–33)
- A Focused, Well-Presented Issue: Framing an Argument for your Audience (p. 245)
- A Focused, Well-Presented Issue: Framing an Argument for a Diverse Group of Readers (p. 250)
- A Focused, Well-Presented Issue: Reframing through Contrast (p. 257)
- Frame the issue for your readers. (pp. 264–66)
- A Troubleshooting Guide: A Focused, Well-Presented Issue (p. 275)

### A Well-Supported Position

How do I come up with a plausible position?

- Assess the genre's basic features: A well-supported position. (pp. 233–34)
- Formulate a working thesis stating your position. (p. 266)
- Develop the reasons supporting your position. (p. 267)
- Research your position. (pp. 267–68)
- Use sources to reinforce your credibility. (pp. 268–69)

How do I come up with reasons and evidence supporting my position?

- A Well-Supported Position: Using Anecdotes and Examples (p. 246)
- A Well-Supported Position: Using Statistics (p. 251)
- A Well-Supported Position: Using Sources (p. 258)
- Formulate a working thesis stating your position. (p. 266)
- Develop the reasons supporting your position. (p. 267)
- Research your position. (pp. 267–68)

## An Effective Response to Opposing Views

How do I respond to possible objections to my position?

- Assess the genre's basic features: An effective response to opposing views. (pp. 234–35)
- An Effective Response: Conceding and Refuting (p. 246)
- Identify and respond to your readers' likely reasons and objections. (pp. 269–71)
- Write the opening sentences. (p. 272)

How do I respond to possible alternative positions?

- Assess the genre's basic feature: An effective response to opposing views. (pp. 234–35)
- An Effective Response: Conceding and Refuting (p. 246)
- An Effective Response: Presenting and Reinterpreting Evidence to Undermine Objections (pp. 251–52)
- An Effective Response: Refuting by Demonstrating the Effects (pp. 258–59)
- Research your position. (pp. 267–68)
- Identify and respond to your readers' likely reasons and objections. (pp. 269–71)

## A Clear, Logical Organization

How can I help my readers follow my argument?

- Assess the genre's basic features: A clear, logical organization. (pp. 235–36)
- A Clear, Logical Organization: Creating Closure (p. 247)
- A Clear, Logical Organization: Providing Cues for Readers (p. 252)
- A Clear, Logical Organization: Using Cueing Devices (p. 259)
- Create an outline that will organize your argument effectively for your readers. (p. 271)
- A Troubleshooting Guide: A Clear, Logical Organization (p. 276)