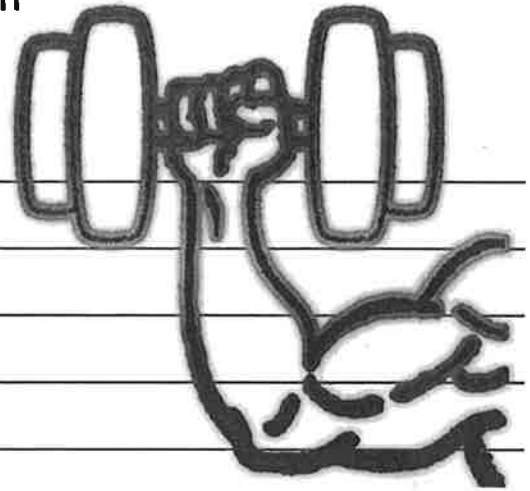


# Building Your Argument

## → Pre-writing

How do you feel about the topic? Write your thoughts below.



Multiple horizontal lines for writing.

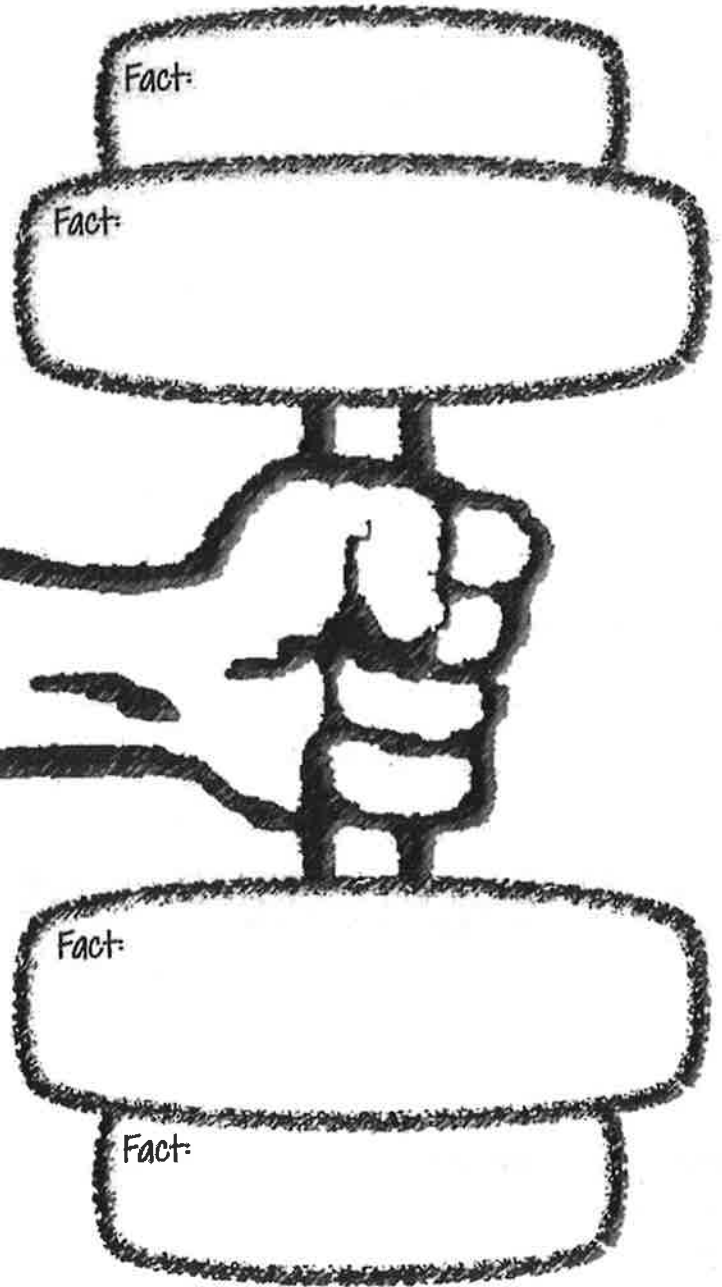
→ Read what you have written (above). What do you BELIEVE about the topic? Based on your feelings, write your stance, or CLAIM for your argument:

→ Can your claim be more precise? How can you improve it? Discuss it with your classmates, then rewrite, if necessary.

# Building a STRONG Argument

1. Start with a precise claim:  
• I BELIEVE...

2. Give your claim some weight with data & facts (EVIDENCE):



3.

JOIN the two with a statement that uses the EVIDENCE to support your CLAIM:

## Building Your Argument: MINOR CLAIMS

- ➔ Once you have your CLAIM, you'll want to break it up into MINOR CLAIMS.  
MINOR CLAIMS are basically the REASONS for what you believe.

For example, let's pretend the topic is about Facebook gathering data for commercial purposes on its users.

Your claim is:

"I believe it is wrong for Facebook to collect data on its users for financial gain."

What are the reasons for your belief? Your initial responses may be...

"It violates my privacy!"

Your opposition would say, "You agreed to this when you signed up!" making this a weak reason.

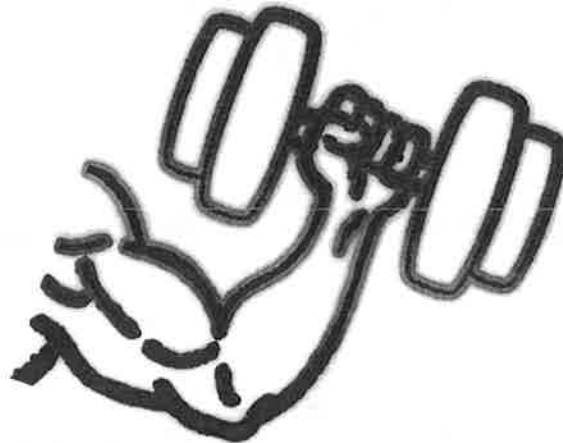
"It's creepy!"

Can you even gather facts and data on this? Probably not...

"I think it's wrong they download beacons onto our computers to gather personal information about our computer activity--not just our activity on Facebook."

Now...here's a reason that can be supported with research. THIS would be a good candidate for a MINOR CLAIM.

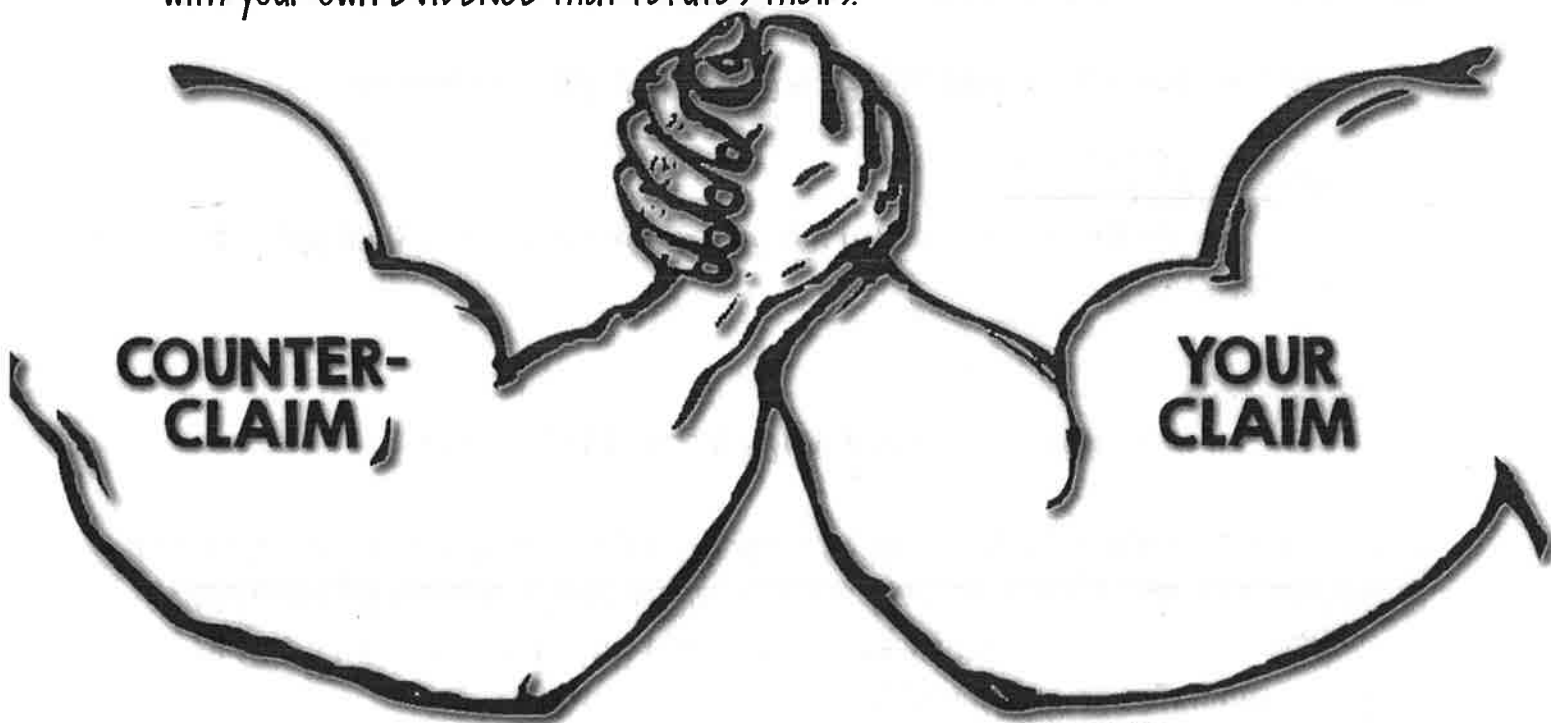
- ➔ You'll want to include at least TWO MINOR CLAIMS in your paper.



## Building Your Argument: Addressing the Counterclaim

Protect your claim by acknowledging and addressing the opposition's counterclaim.

- **KNOW** the COUNTERCLAIM: this is the opposite, or opposing viewpoint, of your claim.
- **ADDRESS** the COUNTERCLAIM in your paper, acknowledging that there are those who disagree.
- **WRITE** a COUNTERARGUMENT: Prove the COUNTERCLAIM is FALSE or ineffective with your own EVIDENCE that refutes theirs.



**COUNTERCLAIM(S)**

**YOUR COUNTERARGUMENT**

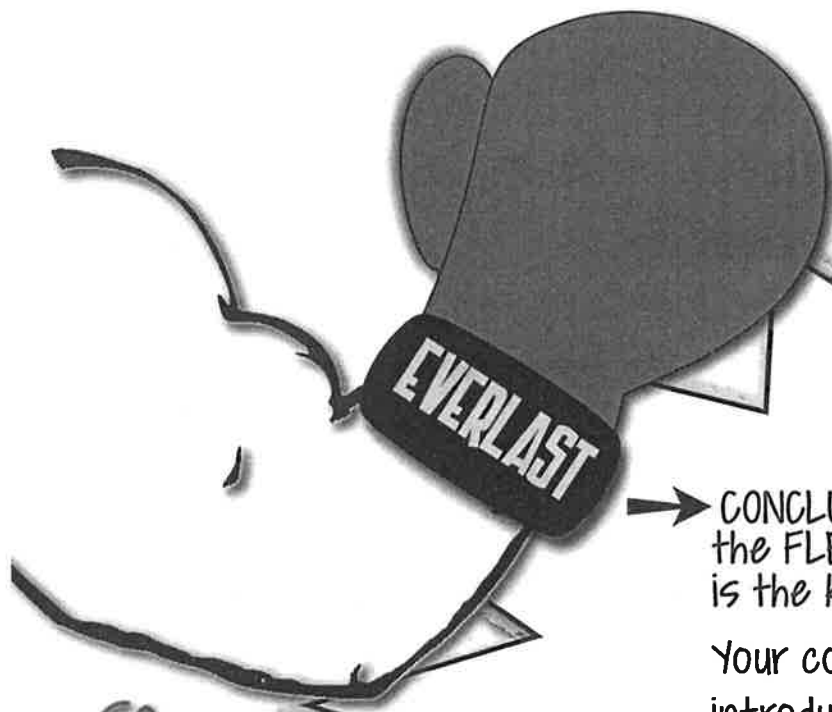
Two columns of empty, hand-drawn rectangular boxes for writing. The left column is under the heading 'COUNTERCLAIM(S)' and the right column is under 'YOUR COUNTERARGUMENT'. Each column contains two boxes stacked vertically.

## WRITING YOUR INTRODUCTION & CONCLUSION

Write your introduction and conclusion last. Often these are the hardest to write, but they become easier after you've finished the body of your paper.

### → INTRODUCTION - FLEX IT!

Your introduction needs to grab the reader's attention, so FLEX that muscle! It should include an attention-getter, a statement pointing out the significance/importance of your topic, then your thesis statement.



### → CONCLUSION - If your introduction was the FLEX of your muscle, your conclusion is the KNOCKOUT PUNCH!

Your conclusion should tie-in with your introduction, remind the reader of your stance, then give the reader something to think about long after they stop reading. Remember, you are trying to WIN this argument, so don't hold back!

GO FOR THE  
KNOCKOUT!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Outline for Argument Essay

TOPIC: \_\_\_\_\_

THESIS (FLEX! Include your claim and evidence to support it) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

MINOR CLAIM #1 (Include your minor claim, data/facts, and joint/link) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

MINOR CLAIM #2 (Include your minor claim, data/facts, and joint/link) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

COUNTERARGUMENT Include opposition's counterclaim, your counterargument, and data/facts to support it) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CONCLUSION (KNOCKOUT! Include a final "knockout" punch that ties in with your introduction) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_