

# Unit 3-4 Argument

Content Area: **Language Arts**  
Course(s): **E/LA 8 Accelerated**  
Time Period: **Marking Period 3**  
Length: **MP3-4**  
Status: **Published**

## Essential Questions

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- How does an author's perspective and word choice impact their argument?
- How do I incorporate relevant information to persuade readers to accept my opinion and defend my position while also acknowledging conflicting evidence?

## Big Ideas

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### Anchor Standards

- AS.R.1-3      The interactions of literary elements contribute to its overall meaning.
- AS.R.4-6      Authors use the structure of text and nuances of language to craft their work.
- AS.R.7-9      Good readers deduce meaning from text through interpretation and comparison.
- AS.W.1-3      Different formats of writing are used for different purposes.
- AS.W.4-6      Technology is a useful tool for assisting authors with the writing process.
- AS.W.7-9      Research requires the synthesis of ideas from a variety of sources and the presentation of those ideas in an original written interpretation.
- AS.SL.1-3      The ability to clearly articulate one's thoughts and listen critically is essential to working collaboratively with others.
- AS.L.4-6      Various aspects language can be associated with academic, creative, and professional platforms.

**Core Reading:** *Dear Martin, The Pigman, Animal Farm*

**Core Writing:** Argumentative Essay

**Other Formative Writing:** Response/Reflection Journal Entries, Open-Ended Responses, Compare/Contrast, Various Persuasive Text Analysis Using Multiple Text Evidence, Blog Posts for Persuasive Topics

**Supplemental Resources:** *The Pearl*, *Prentice Hall Literacy*; *Junior Scholastic News*, Select articles on current persuasive topics, *Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Workshop*, *Foundations*

**Presentation Skills:** Debate, Socratic Seminar (informal-speaking/listening in a group setting)

**Technology:** Google Platform, online collaboration, revision, research

## **Cross-Curricular Integration**

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### **Areas of Integration: Science Visual and Performing Arts**

6.2.8.B.4.f Explain how the geographies and climates of Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas influenced their economic development and interaction or isolation with other societies.

6.2.12.B.1.b Determine the role of natural resources, climate, and topography in European exploration, colonization, and settlement patterns.

1.2.8.A.2 Differentiate past and contemporary works of dance, music, theatre, and visual art that represent important ideas, issues, and events that are chronicled in the histories of diverse cultures.

1.2.8.A.3 Analyze the social, historical, and political impact of artists on culture and the impact of culture on the arts.

Activity:

During a study of the novella, *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck, students will explore the setting, climate, environment, oyster farming and geography of the setting, La Paz Mexico, calculate monetary conversions of the U.S. dollar and the peso, compare and contrast aspects of western medicine and holistic medicine and gain an understanding of the artistic style of the Mexican Muralism Movement, featuring prominent artists, “los tres grandes,” José Clemente Orozco, Diego Rivera, and David Alfaro Siqueiros.

## **Diversity Integration**

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### **Race and Ethnicity**

Objective:

SWBAT develop an awareness of diversity related to the novel, *Dear Martin*, to analyze Justyce (the main

character) coming to terms with his identity in a changing world.

SWBAT connect the novel, *Dear Martin*, to different texts or media with similar themes.

Activity:

- Students will write a theme statement after teacher modeling
- Students will collaborate in small groups to compose a theme statement evidence to support their position
- Students will research and compare other media/art with similar themes
- Label the triangle appropriately
- Create connections between each of the medias

### **CSDT Technology Integration**

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8.1.8DA.1: Organize and transform data collected using computational tools to make it usable for a specific purpose

8.1.8.DA.3: Identify the appropriate tool to access data based on its file format

8.1.8.DA.4: Transform data to remove errors and improve the accuracy of the data for analysis.

8.1.8.DA.5: Test, analyze, and refine computational models.

Activity:

Explore a [virtual field trip](#) to the San Diego Zoo similar to plot points visited in the novel *The Pigman*.

Publishing: Research Report, Credible Sources,

Publishing: Argumentative Writing, Credible Sources, Works Cited, MLA Format

### **Diversity Integration**

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**Mexican Heritage**

Explore the culture, art and language of Mexico through John Steinbeck's novel, *The Pearl*.

## **Enduring Understandings**

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### **Literature**

RL.CR.8.1 [M] Cite the textual evidence and make relevant connections that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

RL.CI.8.2 [M] Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it is conveyed through particular details; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

RL.IT.8.3 [M] Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.

### **Informational Text**

RI.CR.8.1 Cite the textual evidence and make relevant connections that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text.

RI.IT.8.3 Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between key individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).

RI.PP.8.5. Analyze how an author conveys or develops their perspective or purpose in a text and by acknowledg[es]ing and respond[s]ing to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.

RI.AA.8.7 [M] Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced. (Students may evaluate texts that outline design solutions to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of a problems such as rising global temperatures, while discounting irrelevant evidence.)

### **Writing**

W.AW.8.1 [M] Write arguments on discipline-specific content (e.g. social studies, science, technical subjects, English/Language Arts) to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

W.AW.8.1a [M] Introduce claim(s), about a topic or issue, acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.

W.AW.8.1b [M] Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, relevant, accurate data and evidence that demonstrate an understanding of the topic or text, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.

W.AW.8.1c [M] Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among

claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

W.AW.8.1d [M] Establish and maintain a formal or academic style/academic style, approach, and form.

W.AW.8.1e [M] Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.

### Speaking and Listening

SL.PE.8.1 [M] Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one and in groups) on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

SL.PE.8.1a [M] Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.

SL.PE.8.1b [M] Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.

SL.PE.8.1c [M] Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas.

SL.PE.8.1d [M] Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented.

SL.II.8.2 [M] Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation. (Students may analyze the criteria and constraints of a design problem that is the result of the local impact of climate change, taking into account the source of the criteria, its credibility, and the motives behind its presentation.)

SL.ES.8.3 [M] Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.

### Language

L.VL.8.3 [M] Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on grade 8 reading and content, including technical meanings, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

L.VL.8.3c [M] Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., precede, recede, secede).

## Resources

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*Prentice Hall Literacy; Junior Scholastic News*, Select articles on current persuasive topics, *Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Workshop, Foundations*

*Argument Writing* [Rubric](#)