Writing a Strong Argument
We write an argumentative piece when we are taking a stand on something, and then supporting our ideas with textual evidence. Any argumentative piece you write should include the following:

1. First Paragraph - Introduction

Grabber – This sentence grabs your reader’s attention. It can be a question, a statement, a quote, or an interesting fact about your claim.

State your Claim. This is the point that your argument makes. In other words, it is the statement you are trying to prove is true.

Give the reader background information to help them understand your position. You must be sure your reader understands what you are discussing.

2. Body Paragraphs – Arguments (reasons), Evidence, Elaboration.
2 body paragraphs are required, but 1 or 2 more may be included.

Arguments (Reasons) are also called Key Points. They tell why you feel or believe the way you do.

Evidence supports our reasons, and are from a credible source. Credible sources include statistical evidence (data), testimonial evidence (interviews or quotes from experts), anecdotal evidence (examples from text), or analogical evidence (analogies).

Elaboration - You must explain (elaborate) why your evidence supports your reasons. You cannot simply state a piece of evidence, and leave it at that. You have to give your explanation as to why that piece of evidence matters.

Counterclaims are not required of 6th Grade, but it helps to start learning how to use them now.
Counterclaims are statements that oppose the claim you are making. They are the opposing argument.
Why do you use them? They make your own argument stronger.
To use a counterclaim, state the opposite of the claim, but then write a rebuttal to the counterclaim that states why your claim is the strongest.
Examples:
Some might say that all sharks are dangerous creatures, but according to Oceana, only about a dozen sharks have the potential to be dangerous.

One might argue that cats make better pets than dogs, but according to Dina Spector, dogs make people laugh more than cats and they can help you to make friends.

Where do you use them? They can be used to support an argument (body paragraph), or they can be used in the conclusion.

3. Write your CONCLUSION

Your CONCLUSION should restate your claim and your arguments. In the conclusion, a challenge can be made, an interesting quote can be used, a question can be asked, or an inference can be used.

TYPES OF EVIDENCE
Statistical Evidence (data)  Do Not Use as Support
Testimonial Evidence (expert)
Anecdotal Evidence (example)
Analogical Evidence (analogy)

TRANSITION WORDS
Transition Words will help your writing to move along smoothly.
Use Transition Words:

Between Claims and Reasons:
because  being that
because of the fact  due to the fact that
for the simple reason that

Between Reasons and Evidence:
For instance,  According to ___ (expert)
For example,  According to the data,
As an example,  _____ proves that
Not only _____, but also _____  As an illustration, _____
Between Claims and Counterclaims:

Conversely, On the contrary,
Even though Others think
However, Others may say
Nevertheless, Some believe
On the other hand,

For Counterclaims and Rebuttals

Critics argue that ____, although ____
While it may be true that ______, still all in all ____
Others may say that ______, but I argue ____
A common argument against this position is ______, but ____
It may be true that ______, however, ____
It is easy to think that ______, but the facts suggest ____
While some people say ____, they fail to address ____
It is often thought that ______, but in reality ______