

Argumentative Writing Topic

The background is a solid yellow color with a faint, sketchy illustration of a person's face and a violin. The face is located in the lower-left quadrant, and the violin is in the lower-right quadrant. The overall style is artistic and minimalist.

Selecting Your Topic

When choosing a topic for your argumentative paper, make sure that the topic:

- Is something related to students
- Involves conflicting viewpoints
- Is not cliché or too common
- Is current and relevant

Brainstorm

The background is a solid yellow color with faint, dark sketches. On the left, there is a sketch of a person's face, possibly a woman, looking upwards. On the right, there is a sketch of a violin and its bow, oriented vertically. The sketches are light and appear to be made with a pencil or light ink.

REFLECTING ON YOUR TOPIC

Once you've chosen your topic, reflect on the emotions and thoughts you have about it.

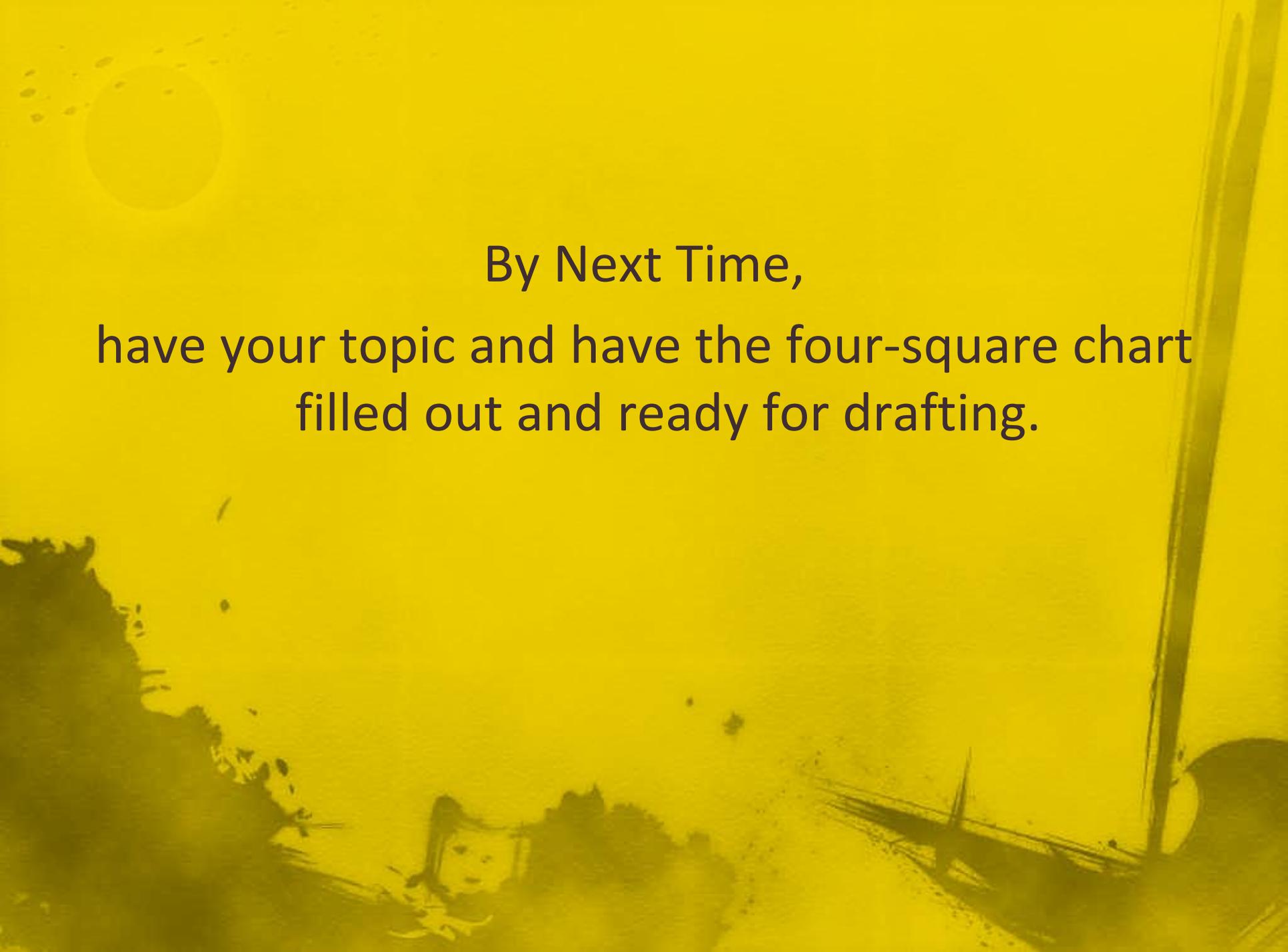
Keep the following ideas in mind:

- Make sure that your feelings about the topic don't overpower your reasoning.
 - *Remember, logos, not pathos.
- Having mixed emotions and being undecided about your position is a good way to start. This most likely means that you can see both sides of the debate.
- Decide on what position to take only after considering arguments on both sides of the issue.

Your CLAIM goes here

1.	Your main points	1.	The opposition's main points
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
1.	The opposition's counterpoints	1.	Your counterpoints
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Using the 4-square chart above, write down at least 3 distinct arguments supporting each position. Each argument should approach the issue from different angles. As much as possible, the arguments on the left side should be directly “arguing with” the ones on the right.

The background is a solid yellow color with faint, light-colored sketches. In the top left, there is a sketch of a sun with rays. In the bottom left, there is a sketch of a person's face. In the bottom right, there is a sketch of a violin and its bow.

By Next Time,
have your topic and have the four-square chart
filled out and ready for drafting.

Audience

How do writers' assumptions about audience affect production of a text?

- 1. How much to elaborate based on what they anticipate readers know
- 2. How much to tailor the development of claims
- 3. How much to care, since writers' concerns are bigger when audience matters
- 4. How to accommodate audiences if writers don't identify with them

“Considering the audience, therefore, is not simply a matter of selecting the information that readers need to understand the argument. Instead, **writers must anticipate objections and questions and develop persuasive appeals, including building on common ground, refuting opposing claims, offering an acceptable reader-writer relationship, and presuming upon appropriate beliefs and values.**”

~Miller & Charney

Point of View

- You will be reading this piece as one of the following people:
 - Teenager
 - Parent
 - Police Officer
 - Insurance Executive
 - President of DriveCam
- On a separate piece of paper, note information that is important, surprising, puzzling or thought-provoking. For each time you note information, jot a sentence or two about why you chose that bit. Be prepared to explain your role's thoughts, opinions, or questions.
- Now, write a claim about this topic that someone in your role could make, given the information.

Dealing with the opposition

The Hamburger:

Writer takes a stand, recognizes the opposition, and then counters the opposition.

Set 'em up and knock 'em down:

Writer begins with a counterargument and then spends the rest of the paragraph knocking it down.

■ Introduction (Hook and Claim [thesis]): _____

■ 1st Body Paragraph: Data/Evidence 1, Warrant 1, Counterclaim, Rebuttal

■ 2nd Body Paragraph: Data/Evidence 2, Warrant 2, Counterclaim, Rebuttal

■ 3rd Body Paragraph: Data/Evidence 3, Warrant 3, Counterclaim, Rebuttal

■ Conclusion: _____

❖ You decide on the format for Counterclaim and Rebuttal