Choose a topic

* Ask yourself what you are interested in: war, societal issues, the economy, etc.
* Your potential topic must have at least **two** debatable perspectives

Conduct research about each side of the topic

* Gather specific facts and data to support and oppose **each** side
* Organize the facts and data in a clear way: T-Chart, Grid, Table, etc.
* The more facts and data you collect, the more your will be able to write about and the stronger your argument will be

Choose a side to argue

* Make a claim or thesis statement
* You claim or thesis must be **definitive** and clearly state your position
* “It was critical that America enter World War I because it led to the defeat of Germany, restored peace at sea and led to increased trade with Europe” is and example of a strong claim

Begin writing an argumentative paper

* Your opening paragraph should include: any necessary background information, your claim and basic reasons supporting the claim
* Your body paragraphs will explore the reasons supporting your claim, including specific facts and data
* You also must include a **counter claim**. Include support for the opposing side of the argument and then **prove it wrong!**
* You can prove the opposition wrong by including facts and statistics refuting a specific point
* “Some scholars state that America should not have entered World War I because the conflict cost nearly $32 billion in a time when the U.S. was already in a recession. However, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, America’s involvement led to a high rate of job creation and the establishment of the U.S. as the lead global creditor.” This is an example of proving the opposition wrong!
* Be sure to conclude your paper by re-stating your claim and your primary reasons of support.