**How To Write an Argument: Boxes & Bullets**

**Introduction:**

**Hook**: (Quote, question, or universal experience)

(Don’t forget to fill in the middle in your rough draft)

**Thesis Statement/Claim:**

**Body Paragraph 1**. Choose a transition (or create your own) and write your first reason:

“To begin with …”  
“To start …”   
“First of all …”  
“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”

First Reason:  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Give credible evidence
* Explain how evidence supports your reason (This is important because …).

**Body Paragraph 2**: Choose a transition (or create your own) and write your second reason:

“Secondly …”  
“In addition …”   
“Another reason …”  
“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”

Second Reason:  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Give credible evidence
* Explain how evidence supports your reason (This is important because …).

**Body Paragraph 3. Counterclaim:** Choose a transition (or create your own):  
“You might believe …, but, …”  
“Some people think …”   
“Others argue that …, however …”

Counterclaim:  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Evidence
* Rebuttal (new evidence that proves your position and goes against counterclaim).

Conclusion:

* Re-state your claim/thesis statement using different words
* Summarize the main points of your argument.
* End with a “Power Line” – a strong, memorable statement about your topic.