**Writing the Argument: Session 1**

Essential Questions

1. What is an argument?
2. What is the difference between fact and opinion?

Learning Target

Arguments are opinions that can be backed up with evidence. They can persuade, inform, convince, and assist in decision making.

Activities (in your writer’s notebook)

1. What words do you think of when you hear the word “argument”?
2. In what situations do you have arguments and what are the results?
3. Write your own definition of “argument”. Share and compare with classmates. Revise.
4. Important vocabulary:
   1. Persuade
   2. Inform
   3. Convince
   4. Assist in decision-making
5. Claims = opinions that can be supported (certain vs debateable)

The Detroit Pistons are a basketball team. The Pistons are the coolest team in the NBA.

Michigan is shaped like a mitten. Michigan is the best state to live if you like ice

fishing and snowball fights.

Jennifer Granholm is the former Governor

of Michigan. Women should not serve as state governors.

In 2010, Michigan produced 140 million

pounds of cherries. People should eat more cherries because they’re

delicious.

Formative Assessment

In your writer’s notebook, create your own two-column table in which you make a list of facts and related opinions. Add to your list as you share and compare with your classmates.