

# Noting Reasons and Researching Evidential Support

## Step 1: Complete the Reasons and Evidential Support Chart

1. Record the topic or issue you will address.
2. State your position or opinion.
3. Brainstorm and list three or more reasons that support your position, opinion, or claim.
4. List possible evidence you already know that might support each reason.
5. Conduct research to verify possible evidence and find additional evidential support. Include at least three different types of evidence to support each reason. Evidence may include facts; expert opinions or quotations; definitions; statistics that offer scientific support; examples that illustrate facts; anecdotes or incidents, including the writer's personal experiences; emotional appeals to sway the audience's emotions; or calls to action that urge the audience to do something.
6. In the "Yes, but . . ." section, provide at least one counterargument, or reason someone might disagree with your position, and tell why your position is better.
7. If you cannot find sufficient evidence for a reason, search for a more compelling reason in your source material.

## Step 2: Organize the Information in the Reasons and Evidential Support Chart

8. Reread all of your reasons, evidential support, and counterpoints.
9. Sort the reasons based on their importance. Which will be most convincing? Do not forget to include your "Yes, but . . ." counterpoints. Number the reasons in the order that will be most convincing. Begin with the least important and build to the most important.
10. Think about how to present the evidence to support each reason. Number the evidence in the order that you will present it.
11. Share with a partner how you organized your ideas and why.