Sample Writing Invitations to Use in

ROUTINE ARGUMENT WRITING

One or two questions should be paired with a visual text or excerpt from a print text to create a bell-ringer or short activity that engages writers in practicing and perfecting moves that argument writers make.

Claim, Stance

* How is this issue relevant to you? Our school? Our community?
* Who might be the stakeholders in this issue or debate? What might they argue?
* What questions would you like to ask about this topic in order to make your own decision—in order to take a stand?
* What claim is being made?
* What claim(s) could you make about this issue?
* Draft a claim for an argument of policy related to this issue.
* Draft a claim for an argument of value related to this issue.

Evidence

* What are the pros and cons of this issue?
* Give an example of a piece of evidence that is cited. How is the evidence being used (forwarding or countering)?
* What is the strongest evidence in this text? Why do you think that? Would it be as strong for a different audience (parents, teachers, business executives, etc.)?
* How is the evidence connected to the claim? What does the author do to explain the relevance of the evidence to the situation or context?

Counterclaim

* What is the counterclaim that is presented? What evidence supports or refutes it?
* How could you refute the evidence presented in this text?
* What is the weakest evidence in this text? Why do you think that? How could you attack that weak evidence?

Credibility

* How credible is this source? Why do you think that?
* Is this source balanced or biased? Why do you think that?