Building an Argumentative Research Paper

1. **INTRODUCE PROBLEM OR RESEARCH QUESTION THAT IS PAPER’S FOCUS**
   - Provide factual background.
   - Dramatize with an anecdote.
   - Establish significance as a problem citing experts or observers.
   - Explain your purpose: to change audience attitudes or behavior? To inform?

2. **REVIEW THE LITERATURE**
   *What have others already said and how is that relevant to the problem or question?*
   - Cite published studies, interviews, comments, experiments, etc.
   - Address the problem or question.
   - Address popular assumptions.

3. **INTRODUCE YOUR ARGUMENT BASED ON EVIDENCE**
   - What does your understanding of others’ arguments about the problem or question lead you to believe?
   - State your argument or claim explicitly.

4. **PRESENT THE EVIDENCE FOR YOUR ARGUMENT**
   *What are your reasons for believing what you believe? For each reason, what specific evidence did you find that convinced you?*
   - Consider what kind of evidence your audience will find most persuasive.
   - Include varied types of evidence.
   - Address counter-arguments.

5. **EXPLAIN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF YOUR ARGUMENT**
   *Why does this matter? What’s at stake for your audience? What might be other avenues for research?*
   - What might happen if the audience doesn’t act?
   - What questions remain?
   - How does your argument resolve some part of the problem? What part remains unresolved?