**8th Grade Argument Writing**

**Op. Ed. Components**

Lede: Hooks the reader. Shows immediate relevance of the issue/problem.

Thesis: Debatable claim about the issue/problem.

Counterargument: Address flaws in the argument or possible reader objections. This can come at any point in the body of the Op. Ed.

Issue: A point, matter, or dispute, the decision of which is of special or public importance: political issues.

Problem: Any question or matter involving doubt, uncertainty, or difficulty; a question proposed for solution or discussion.

Viability: Practical, feasible, usable, adaptable; able to live and grow.

**Possible Topics**

1. Year-Round School
2. Abortion
3. Challenge Day – Bullying in School
4. Legalizing Marijuana
5. Smoking in Public Places

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**Paragraph Break-Down**

**Paragraph 1-** 1) Give a lede. This is the opening paragraph and it contains a hook to draw the reader in. Often in an op-ed, this concerns a link to current events.

**Paragraph 2-** 1)Give your thesis statement. This includes the debatable claim about the issue or problem.

**Paragraph 3 to 7-** Give multiple points to support the thesis. Make sure these are evidence-based and include an analysis. Also, give a counterargument to your argument. This addresses flaws in the argument or possible reader objections. This can come at any point in the body of the writing.

**Paragraph 8-** Or whichever paragraph you are on. Conclude your paper. A call to action for the reader. What can he/she do about this problem?