**Argument Paragraph Pre-Writing**

*Take Out Your Writer’s Notebook…*

1. Begin with **evidence**. In your Writer’s Notebook, write down everything you know about your chosen topic (facts, statistics, reasons, details, anecdotes, experience, observations).
   1. Re-read and examine any articles you have read on the topic in class.
   2. Perform further research on the Internet and in the library as needed.
2. Notice which pieces of your evidence are factual and which are anecdotal. You might need to balance this out later in the drafting process.
3. Examine your evidence.
   1. What does the evidence tell you?
   2. What is your **opinion** about this topic based on the evidence you recorded?
   3. Write a **draft of your debatable claim** in your Writer’s Notebook.
4. Now focus on the WHY of your argument. This means you’ll be pre-writing for **commentary**—an element of argument you’ll learn more about in a later lesson. Answer these questions in your Writer’s Notebook.
   1. Why is this topic/claim important?
   2. What does the evidence tell us?
   3. Why do you feel this way about this topic? Why does it concern you?
   4. Why should your readers care about this argument?