argue /əˈɡjuː/ verb

WORD FORMS:
argue, argues, arguing, argued

1 [transitive] If someone argues a view or an idea in an article or book, they present the idea and support it with evidence. Note: argue is very often followed by a that-clause.

- Mazrui (1999: 1) also argued that Africa developed the West.
- The question, I will argue in this essay, cannot be answered without a clearer sense of how Greece relates to Rome in Shelley’s work.
- Some researchers have argued that a decentralized economy will have difficulty in fully exploiting the growth returns of general purpose technologies.
- "Some frames," argues Gamson (1992: 135), "have a natural advantage because their ideas and language resonate with a broader political culture."

article/paper/essay argues that...
- This article argues that literacy is an important sociological phenomenon, but one largely under-researched in British sociology.

it could/can/might/may be argued that...
- It could be argued that, by suggesting complete openness the liberals initially tried to handle the issue differently.

one could/can/might/may argue that...
- In almost simplistic terms, one could argue that, without sound, there would be no music.

as someone argues somewhere / as argued somewhere
- As argued elsewhere (Steadman and Palmer 1995; Palmer and Steadman 2004), the key to this distinction appears to be the behaviour of the listeners.
- No doubt state leaders in new states often follow the ethnic model of nation-building, but, as I argue below (= later in the article), this is not the only possible solution, and normally not the best one in order to survive and flourish as nations.

as argued by someone / as someone argues
- Stravinsky’s music was never intended to be complete in itself, but to be made complete by the choreography, as Irene Alm has persuasively argued.
- The results are consistent with the hypothesis that capital markets are integrated, as argued by Campbell and Hamou (1992) and Harvey (1991), among others.

2 [intransitive] If you argue for or you argue in favour of an idea or theory, you agree with it and provide evidence that supports it.

- Vygotsky (1978) argued for the importance of language as both a psychological and cultural tool.
- This article argues in favour of putting into place a legal framework for feedback intermediaries.

3 [intransitive] If you argue against an idea or theory, you provide evidence that opposes it.

- Ian Sefton is physics educator who has strongly argued against the mistaken view that electrons possess potential energy.
- Nevertheless, four pieces of circumstantial evidence argue against this narrower view.

4 [intransitive] If you argue with someone about/over something, you discuss it because you have different opinions.

- Living cells had of course been seen through the microscope before, and a range of their activities had been described and argued over.
- The committee also argued about and negotiated the unorthodox multimedia exhibition style.

5 [intransitive] If you argue with someone or someone’s view, you disagree with it.

- Few would argue with the idea that we should maximise positive value and minimise evil.
- According to Derrida, the machine is dangerous because it is the opposite of life; it is ‘pure representation’ and ‘never runs by itself’. So far it is difficult to argue with Derrida.

6 [intransitive] If people argue, they talk angrily to each other because they disagree.

- Again, the father went to argue with the doctors. The chief physician went almost wild, according to Hallward.

argue about/over something
- Bernardino Antonio, a resident of Actopan, beat his wife fatally in 1808 after they argued about the punishment of their child.

WORD ORIGIN
Date: 1300-1400
Language: Old French
Origin: arguer (to assert, charge with), from Latin arguerre (to make clear)
authority /ˈɔːrθərɪ/ noun

WORD FORMS
authority, authorities

MENU
1. power to control people or activities
2. government department
3. (the authorities) organizations in charge of a country
4. expert
5. important written work
6. person with power
7. official permission
8. personal quality
9. Computing type of internet page

1 [uncountable] If an institution or person has authority, they have the right or power to control people or activities.

- The city planners made it clear that they had no authority to alter the plan.
- In the household older females can have authority over younger males, especially mothers over sons.
- If conflicts occurred, they were about the extent to which work teams could exercise authority over the activities of militant students.
- Informational advantages brought about by specialization were perhaps the only means by which it could challenge the legislative authority of the European Council.
- Immigrant Asian clients may see the therapist as an expert authority figure who can help them solve their problems.

FREQUENT PATTERNS
to challenge/undermine authority
to delegate/exercise/grant/claim authority
political/religious/public/legal/sovereign authority

2 (also Authority) [countable, usually singular] An authority is a government department or official organization that is responsible for a certain area of activities, and has the power to make decisions.

- The planning authority (Staffordshire County Council) received some 80 letters of objection, a few letters of support and a petition against the scheme with 3000 signatures on it.
- The analysed sample of firms is taken from the registers compiled by the Finnish Tax Authority.
- At the same time, however, it urged health authorities to put out to tender contracts for hospital cleaning, catering and laundry.
- They described the case of how the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey responded to the homelessness issue that was affecting the organization in the 1980s.

RELATED ENTRIES: LOCAL AUTHORITY

3 [uncountable] The authorities are organizations or people that are in charge of a certain country or area.

- The company itself undertakes the testing of the new products and then the new products mostly also have to be tested and approved by the authorities.
- Since 1982, the Chinese authorities have undertaken a nationwide campaign to check and update household registration before the census.
- American military authorities decided permission was needed, however, and began to warn troops in the U.K. against marrying local women.

4 [countable] A person who is an authority on something is considered to be an expert on a particular subject.

- On the basis of this relatively slim experience Simpson began to be recognized as an authority on Russia.
- The editors of the journal Current Anthropology solicit comments from recognized authorities.

5 [countable] An authority is a written work that is often cited in support of a particular argument.

- By the time Lacan gave his address to the Psychoanalytical Congress, there were more authorities that could be cited regarding the age of mirror recognition.

6 [countable] An authority is a person in a position of power.

- Students undergo the process of learning through traditional educational methods in which the teacher is the authority rather than a facilitator.
- The most basic characteristic of religion is a belief in a higher being, a supreme otherworldly authority to whom ultimate allegiance is owed.
7. **Uncountable** Authority is official permission to do something.
   - A manufacturer of VCRs was liable for authorisation of copyright infringement because of the ability of VCRs to copy without authority, television shows and movies.
   - Section 6 of the Human Rights Act makes it 'unlawful for a court to act in a way which is incompatible with a Convention right,' without express authority from Parliament.

8. **Uncountable** if someone has authority, they are knowledgeable or behave in a way that other people listen to them.
   - He *spoke with the authority* of a wise elder.

9. **Countable** Computing An authority is an internet page that has many citations pointing to it.

   - As a consequence of Google's ranking mechanism, which prefers authorities, mainly portals of big organizations, companies, and others were retrieved.

**WORD ORIGIN**
- **Date:** 1200-1300
- **Language:** Old French
- **Origin:** auctorité, from Latin auctoritas (opinion, decision), from auctor (author)