

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 Hamao (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 Hallvard.

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 *arguere* (to make clear)

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)