

*"The Only Person You Have to Convince is Me."*

Day 4: Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others

**Objective:** You will explain and discuss thinking processes including agreement and disagreement, providing multiple approaches to a problem and identify plausible rationales for each approach. (civil discourse, thought process, etc)

**Rationale:** An argument is strengthened by the depth and breadth of its defense. When you can demonstrate that you've considered the reasoning and proposals of others, and *still* argue that your solution is best, you will start to build formidable support.

**Goal:** Analyze a debate topic and examine the main points from multiple perspectives while considering the human emotions involved in the process. Analyze the design process and consider how different perspectives can satisfy design guidelines in different ways.

**Key Terms:** horticulture, counterargument, rebuttal, mock, relevant, city council, school board

**Materials & Resources:**

**Social Studies:** Article: [Can Trees and Grass Become Best Crime-Fighting Tools?](#)

**ELA:** [Stage 3 of the Writing Process](#); [Interview and Survey Questions](#); [Preparing Rebuttals](#)

**Science:** [How the Brain Processes Emotions](#)

**ACTIVITIES:**

**Social Studies**

- **Read** the article: [Can Trees and Grass Become Best Crime-Fighting Tools?](#)
- **Define** the word: **horticulture\***
- **Summarize** the reasons people believe replacing run-down buildings and abandoned lots with green spaces can reduce crime and violence.
- **Explain** why some people may disagree.
- **Analyze** the quote from the article: "If you clean a space, people will want to protect it." Do you think this statement is accurate? Provide an example to support your argument.

**ELA**

- **Prepare** for **counterarguments\*** to your proposal and possible **rebuttals\***.
- **Practice** a **mock\*** question-answer (Q/A) session within a **relevant\*** scenario with an audience of at least one person who may oppose your proposal. (*Consider scenarios such as a **city council\*** meeting or a **school board\*** meeting.*)
  - One example focus could be on the budget proposals, for example. Hesitation to adopt proposals often deals with cost.

## Math

- Your challenge is to **design** the ideal space for a community hoping to create social and collaborative experiences.
- Use the following guidelines:
  - At least two kids in the neighborhood use wheelchairs.
  - The kids enjoy sports, music, and food.
  - Your space must include an access route to transportation, a sitting area, some form of lighting, a space for plants/garden, and some kind of basic shelter (could be a roof or pavilion).
- How do these guidelines influence your design decisions?
- What MATH will you need to use in designing this space?
- What formulas will you use in the process? (Write out the formulas. Provide an example of how you could use a formula to solve a problem.)

## Science

- **Read** the article: [How the Brain Processes Emotions](#)
- The process of discussion/debate can become very emotional when one is passionate about the subject. Emotion can mean many things; it refers to positive or negative feelings that are produced by a specific situation.
- **Identify** negative emotions and/or positive emotions that can be triggered during the process of debate.
  - What parts of the brain control emotional responses?
  - What behaviors could be displayed by an individual experiencing these positive and/or negative emotions?
  - How can we learn to control our negative emotions? What works for you? Explain *why* you think this method is successful.