

Evaluating Arguments in Nonfiction

Today's Standard

8.W.9b - Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., 'Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced').

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Analyzing editorials in newspapers; Critiquing persuasive essays; Evaluating political speeches; Assessing arguments in documentaries; Reviewing historical accounts

Today I Learned

Today, we learned how to tell if the information in a story is important and if it helps the main idea.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Sometimes kids think that all information in a story is important, but that's not always true. They also might think that just having some facts makes a story good, but we need to check if those facts really help the main idea.

Quiz Me

- What is the main idea of the story?
- Can you find a fact in the story?
- Does this fact help the main idea?
- Why is this fact important?
- Is there any information that doesn't help the main idea?

Help Me

We use this skill to figure out if the information we read in books, articles, or even on TV is important and makes sense. For example, when watching a news story, we can ask if the facts they give really help explain the main idea.