



## What are Learning Support Tools?

Learning Support Tools are designed to provide kids with more detailed instructions for completing the project challenges. These tools support kids' thinking about the tasks needed to complete each step, helping kids approach tasks the way a more experienced scholar would. Not every step of the project needs a Learning Support Tool, and not every kid will need the support of every tool offered here. For those that do, these additional explanations, activities, guides, and examples can help accelerate learning.



# Many Hands: Learning Support Tools

## What will I find here?

The tools you will use here provide additional support to help you get inspired, develop a plan, organize research, and draft and finalize a final product through the “Many Hands Make Light Work” project.

### Planning Your Project

- Materials List
- Exploring the Essential Question
- Plan Your Project Milestones
- Finding Your Inspiration

### Challenge 1:

#### Identify Your Project Focus

- **Step 1:** Describing the BIG Problem
- **Step 1:** Choose a Specific Angle
- **Step 2:** The 5 Whys Analysis Tool
- **Step 3:** Draft Claim Statement

### Challenge 2: Research

- **Step 1:** Read and Discover
- **Step 2:** Develop Reasons to Support Your Claim
- **Step 3:** Evaluate your Sources
- **Step 3:** Gather Evidence
- **Step 3:** Link Evidence to Your Claim

### Challenge 3: Consider Your Audience and Medium

- **Step 1:** Identify Your Audience
- **Step 2:** Understand Their Medium and its Style
- **Step 3:** Choose Your Medium

### Challenge 4: Draft Your Argument

- **Step 1:** Argument Components Checklist

### Challenge 5: Prepare to Share

- **Step 1:** Review Tool
- **Step 2:** Review Your Medium and Style



# Planning and Introduction

Before you dive into the project's challenges, introductory slides offer a brief look at **what** you'll do to complete the project and **how** and **when** you'll do these things, along with some inspiration to help you find your **why**. The tools below provide support for these introductory steps.

## Planning

- Materials List

## Introductory Activities

- Exploring the Essential Question
- Plan Your Project Milestones
- Finding Your Inspiration



# Materials List

**What else do kids need to complete the project?** The steps in the project assume kids have ready access to the Internet and basic materials, like pencils and paper. The optional materials listed on the right may be useful to some, depending on their interest and chosen product.

## Required

Paper

Pen/pencil

Internet access

Device for online research and learning resources

## Optional

*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* (Book and/or film)

Dedicated notebook

Camera/video camera

Sticky notes

Markers

Applications for developing a multimedia presentation



# Exploring the Essential Question

Use this tool to record your thoughts and feelings as you consider the essential question.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Essential Question: What makes an argument powerful?

1. Have you ever seen effective communication succeed or fail in motivating people to do difficult things?

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2. As you complete this project, use this table to record specific examples you experience or observe of people using communication successfully or unsuccessfully to motivate others to do difficult things.

Experience or Observation	Description	What role did communication play in success or failure?



# Plan Your Project Milestones

Use this tool to plan completion dates for each step in the Many Hands Project.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Activity	Estimated Time	Complete By Date
<b>Introduction</b>		
Finding Your Inspiration	20–40 min.	
<b>Challenge 1: Identify Your Project Focus</b>		
Step 1: What is the big problem?	20–40 min.	
Step 2: Complete the “5 Whys” analysis.	30–45 min.	
Step 3: Develop a claim statement.	15 min.	
<b>Challenge 2: Research</b>		
Step 1: Read and discover.	30–60 min.	
Step 2: Develop reasons.	30–60 min	
Step 3: Evaluate and select evidence.	40–120 min.	
Step 4: Explain your reasoning, and link it to your claim.	40–80 min.	



# Plan Your Project Milestones

Activity	Suggested Time	Complete By Date
<b>Challenge 3: Consider Your Audience and Medium</b>		
Step 1: Consider who you must reach.	20–30 min.	
Step 2: How will you reach your audience?	20 min.	
Step 3: Choose your medium.	10 min.	
Step 3 Extension: Examine Multimedia Arguments	30–90 min.	
<b>Challenge 4: Draft Your Argument</b>		
Step 1: Revisit Your Purpose.	5–10 min.	
Step 2: Draft your introduction.	25–35 min.	
Step 3: Draft your body.	40–60 min.	
Step 4: Draft your conclusion.	30–40 min.	
<b>Challenge 5: Prepare to Share</b>		
Step 1: Partner with a reviewer.	20–40	
Step 2: Revise.	30–90	
Step 3: The Final Edit!	20–40	
Step 4: Publish or Present!	20–30	



# Finding Your Inspiration

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Throughout history, we can find examples of people who have accomplished great things under harsh circumstances because they were passionate about solving a problem and they were able to engage support from a wide variety of stakeholders. The story of William Kamkwamba in *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* is one of those examples.

Enjoy the book as part of your foundational knowledge building routine. The full-length film is available on Netflix, but other videos are also available online for free, including several of William's Ted Talks called, "How I Built a Windmill" and "How I Harnessed the Wind."

**Optional Activity or Discussion Prompt:** As you watch *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, take notes about when and how William uses his communication and argumentation skills to engage supporters for his cause.

- Does he use different appeals for different audiences?
- Which has more impact: his words or actions?
- Could either words or actions alone have moved people to help William?
- What are some of the characteristics of William's choices and behaviors that helped him be successful?

## What is your *why*?

As you consider your long term goals and the things you can do this year or this month that will help you reach them, how do you think being able to make an effective argument might help you?

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# Challenge 1: Identify Your Project Focus



## Step 1: What is the big problem?

- Describe the BIG Problem
- Choose a Specific Angle

## Step 2: Complete the “5 Whys” analysis.

- The 5 Whys Analysis Tool

## Step 3: Develop a claim statement.

- Draft Claim Statement



# Describe the BIG Problem

Use this tool to determine an issue or specific problem you will tackle at home or in your community that you feel passionate about.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Remember and Reflect.

1. As you consider your day-to-day experiences at home, is there something that you or other family members struggle with that you'd like to see change? (Example: *My brother spends most of his free time playing video games and stopped playing outside like we used to.*)

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2. As you consider your day-to-day experiences in your community, have you come across a situation that has troubled you? (Example: *I have observed people wasting packaging, especially plastic cups, straws, and shopping bags, and it makes me worry about pollution.*)

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3. Has a particular recent event or news story stayed with you? (Example: *When I hear about a natural disaster that leaves a lot of people homeless, it makes me feel overwhelmed, and I want to do something to help.*)

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## Choose a Problem:

After reflecting on personal, local, national, or global problems that are on your mind, select one that is most important to you right now.



# Choose a Specific Angle

Use this tool to determine and describe your specific angle on the problem in vivid detail. These are questions readers might like to have answered throughout your description.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Where does this problem occur?

Who is affected by it?

When does it affect them? Is it a constant issue?

How does it affect them? What are the specific impacts?

**Write a Vivid description.** Describe your problem with as many vivid images as possible using concrete sensory details — things the audience can see, hear, taste, smell, and touch. If possible, describe one person's experience with the problem.

**Think about specifics.** After reflecting on the specifics of the BIG problem (for example, food waste), can you narrow your focus to a specific issue that you really want to tackle (for example, food wasted by consumers at home)?



# The 5 Whys Analysis Tool

Use this tool to record your 5 Whys analysis. Remember, you might find that you will return to these questions as you continue your research.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## What is the problem?

**Describe:** Write several sentences showing the impact of the problem. Make sure this is concrete, so readers can see, hear, taste, smell, and feel the problem first-hand with their mind's eye. Later, you might turn this description into an attention-grabbing hook for your intro or use it as an example in your argument.

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## What is the cause of this problem?

**Hypothesize:** In one sentence, why do you think this problem exists?

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# The 5 Whys Analysis Tool (Cont.)

Use this tool to record your 5 Whys analysis. Remember, you might find that you will return to these questions as you continue research.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Ask 5 Whys:** Let's analyze the root cause of the problem.

1. Question:

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Answer:

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2. Question: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer:

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3. Question: \_\_\_\_\_

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Answer:

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# The 5 Whys Analysis Tool (Cont.)

Use this tool to record your 5 Whys analysis. Remember, you might find that you will return to these questions as you continue research.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**5 Whys:** Let's analyze the root cause of the problem.

4. Question:

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Answer:

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5. Question:

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Answer:

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# Draft Claim Statement

Use this tool to develop a specific opinion or claim about your problem or solution.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## What is your initial claim?

Once you have developed a working draft of your claim, you can do more effective research. Your argument doesn't necessarily have to provide a solution. You might just help people notice a problem that they previously ignored.

**Example Problem Claim:** Because of excessive video game playing, far fewer young people will spend their youth engaging in other interests as previous generations have done. This is a huge problem for our health and our cultural life.

**Example Problem and Solution Claim:** To reduce time on video games, kids should determine a weekly day off with their friends, so they don't suffer from fear of missing out.

### Your Draft Claim Statement:

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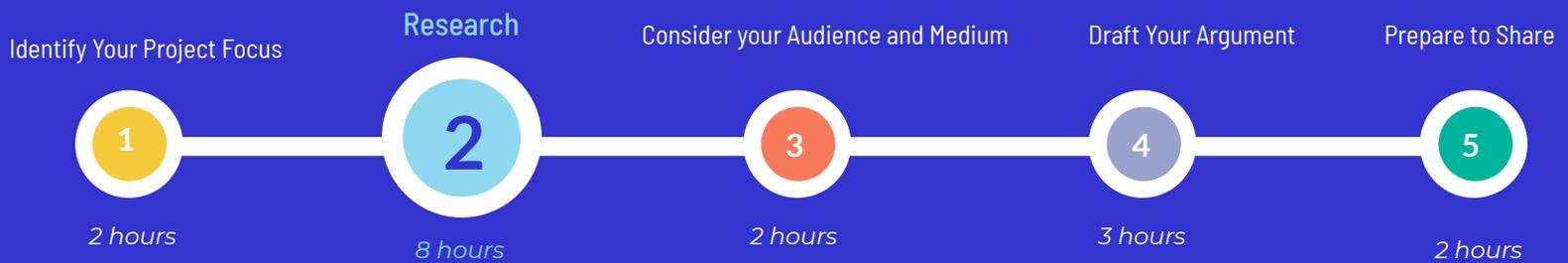
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# Challenge 2: Research



## **Step 1: Read and discover.**

- Read and Discover

## **Step 2: Develop reasons.**

- Develop Reasons to Support Your Claim

## **Step 3: Evaluate and select evidence.**

- Evaluate Your Sources
- Gather Evidence

## **Step 4: Explain your reasoning, and link it to your claim.**

- Link Evidence to Your Claim



# Read and Discover

Use this tool to get an overall sense of what research is available on this topic. You will do a deeper dive once you have determined your reasons. This is just to gather a broad list of sources, some of which you will eliminate later.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Find information on your topic in a variety of formats.

Source Type	Who is talking about the topic? What are the headlines?	Is this an authoritative or trustworthy source?
Traditional Journalism: Newspapers or Magazine Articles		
Videos		
Web Sites/ Organizations		
Infographics		



# Develop Reasons to Support Your Claim

Use this tool to determine specific plans for your research.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## What reasons must you prove to support your claim?

What reasons do you have for supporting this claim? Where might you find evidence, data, and other examples to support those reasons?

Sample Reason: Because kids are playing so many video games, fewer kids play sports and musical instruments than before.

Potential Search Terms and Questions: Video game design, how to make video games, do people play sports less or more than before?

**Your Reason:**

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**Your Reason:**

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**Your Reason:**

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**Potential Search Terms and Questions**

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# Evaluate Your Sources

Use this tool to ensure your research allows you to explore various presentation formats so you can see great models in action.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Find trusted information in different formats.

As you finalize your research, evaluate the source. Does it come from a reputable or authoritative source?

Title and source of newspaper or magazine article, book, website, journal, video, multimedia presentation, interview	Notes about purpose, audience, author	Why should we trust this source?



# Gather Evidence

Use this tool to research and gather evidence about your problem.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Discover what others are saying about the problem:

Read to discover what others who care about this problem have learned. Read from various points of view so you can improve your thinking through diverse perspectives.

1. Quickly review at least 5–10 potential sources.
2. From those, select at least 3 sources to read closely to gather evidence.
3. In your notebook or on a separate sheet of paper, take notes on each of your three sources. Answer the following questions:
  - **What is the title and source?**
  - **What is the author's main idea?**  
In other words, what is their opinion or claim about the topic?
  - **What reasons and supporting evidence do they provide?**  
Why do they support their claim? What statistics or authorities do they share to convince us to agree? This may be a good piece of evidence for you to use!
  - **Do they address any counterarguments?**
  - **What is the most moving, memorable, convincing, engaging, or appealing aspect of the author's writing or presentation?**



# Link Evidence to Your Claim

Use this tool to link your evidence to your reason and back to your claim.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Develop your line of reasoning.

Just as a lawyer in a courtroom cannot simply present evidence to a jury and expect them to know how to interpret it without explanation, you cannot leave evidence unexplained in an argument.

To practice this, develop an “evidence sandwich” for one piece of evidence, using a Reason–Evidence–Explanation framework. You want others to see your thinking as valid, even if they disagree. Later when you draft your argument, you will apply this technique to all of your supporting body paragraphs.

**Your Reason** (Introduce the point you are making. Example: Kids are missing out on a lot of great activities in life because of video games.)

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**Your Evidence** (Present your evidence. Example: Kids spend an average of two hours per day on video games.)

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**Your Explanation of How the Evidence Supports This Reason** (Example: Imagine what you could do with an extra two hours of sports, music, reading, or family time. You could even learn a foreign language in that time. That’s why video games make us less well-rounded.)

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**Ask yourself:** Does the explanation I have provided — either leading to or following my evidence — make a clear and obvious connection to my claim?



# Challenge 3: Consider Your Audience and Medium



## Step 1: Consider who you must reach.

- Identify Your Audience

## Step 2: How will you reach your audience?

- Understand Their Medium and its Style

## Step 3: Choose your medium.

- Choose Your Medium



# Identify Your Audience

Use this tool to identify who your potential audience is and how best to reach them.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Beneath each group name in the table below, list the people who might care about this problem or have the power to help with it.
2. Answer the questions to help you think about what type of message would motivate them to take action.

Group	Why do you want them in your audience?	Why should they care about this topic?
Family		
Friends		
Community Members		
Policy Makers		
Influential Figures		



# Understand Their Medium and its Style

Use this tool to identify features of your audience's preferred media type.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Describe the audience you've identified.** What do they care about? What do they value? What do they know about your subject?
2. **What is their preferred media type?** Do they read the newspaper? Watch TV? Surf the Internet? Listen to podcasts? Or would they rather talk face-to-face?
3. **How is written content typically organized in the medium they enjoy?** How is it structured? What are the notable features of it? Does it use headings and subheadings? Are narrative stories woven in?
4. **How are graphics used?** Do they include charts and graphs? Do they include graphic images showing processes or causes and results?
5. **How is video, audio, or other media used?** Are videos live action, animation, talking heads, voice over still images, or some other style?



# Choose Your Medium

Use this tool to make sure you understand what to consider when working in the media you've chosen. Is your chosen form the best *for your argument* and *for this audience*? Would another form work as well or not as well?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Choose a form.	Consider the typical elements of this form.	What makes this a good form for your audience and message?
Essay	Formal language Citations Artful style	
Blog	Multimedia Text and links Images/video Graphs/charts	
Letter	Formal salutations Conventions of letter writing (personal, business, etc.)	
Website	Multimedia Images/video Graphs/charts Additional pages	
Speech	Volume Variations in tone Pacing	
Live Multimedia Presentation	Formal language Citations Artful style Multimedia Images/video, graphs/charts	
Video	Titles, or subtitles Animation Live action footage	



# Challenge 4: Draft Your Argument

Identify Your Project Focus

Research

Consider your Audience and Medium

Draft Your Argument

Prepare to Share



2 hours



8 hours



2 hours



3 hours



2 hours

## Step 1: Revisit Your Purpose.

- Argument Components Checklist



# Argument Components Checklist

As you complete your first draft, remember to include these components to make your argument powerful!

## Introduction

- **Hook your readers** with a story, perhaps using some of your writing from your original description of the problem.
  - **Transition** to your opinion or claim statement.
  - State a clear, **specific opinion or claim** that captures your point of view about the root causes of a problem or proposes a solution.
- Hook
  - Transition
  - Claim Statement

## Body

- Support your opinion or claim with at least **3 supporting reasons**.
  - Remember to include **at least one piece of evidence** for each reason from a trustworthy outside source.
  - After you incorporate your evidence, you will need to **explain your reasoning** to readers or listeners, so they know why this evidence supports your opinion or claim.
  - Your body paragraphs should follow a **reason-evidence-explanation** pattern
- Reason 1
  - Evidence and Explanation (1–3 pieces)
  - Reason 2
  - Evidence and Explanation (1–3 pieces)
  - Reason 3
  - Evidence and Explanation (1–3 pieces)

## Conclusion

- In your conclusion, you should **recap** how each step of reason-evidence-explanation builds to your recommendation or call to action.
  - And finally, your conclusion should answer the question, **“Why does this matter?”**
- Recap your main points
  - Call your team to action and explain “Why does this matter?”

# Challenge 5: Prepare to Share



## Step 1: Partner with a reviewer.

- Review Tool

## Step 2: Revise

- Review Your Medium and Style



# Review Tool

Use this tool to understand how to review an argumentative claim.

1. Read or view the argument first, noting things you love (♡), things you understand and agree with (✓), and where you have questions(?). Write your comments on the draft.
2. Then, use this tool to review the suggested elements of a strong argument to ensure each element is included in the draft.

## Introduction

- **Hooks the readers** with a story or vivid description of the problem.
- **Transitions** to the opinion or claim statement.
- States a clear, **specific opinion or claim** that captures a point of view about the root causes of a problem or proposes a solution.

- Hook
- Transition
- Claim Statement

## Body

- Supports the opinion or claim with at least **3 supporting reasons**.
- Includes **at least one piece of evidence** for each reason from a trustworthy outside source.
- Incorporates evidence and **explains** why this evidence supports the opinion or claim.
- Body paragraphs should follow a **reason–evidence–explanation** pattern

- Reason 1
- Evidence and Explanation (1–3 pieces)
- Reason 2
- Evidence and Explanation (1–3 pieces)
- Reason 3
- Evidence and Explanation (1–3 pieces)

## Conclusion

- Conclusion **recaps** how each step of reason–evidence–explanation builds to a recommendation or call to action.
- And finally, conclusion should answer the question, **“Why does this matter?”**

- Recap main points
- Call to action and “Why does this matter?”

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# Review Tool (Cont.)

Use this tool to record your feedback, questions, and suggestions for the argument you are reviewing.

1. What are the strengths of the argument?

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2. What was the part of the argument that made you most excited to help solve the problem?

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3. What questions or suggestions do you still have about the problem? The solution?

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# Review Your Medium and Style

Use this tool to review where and how you showcased your most compelling evidence, ideas, and examples. If you haven't included your best, most compelling details, now is the time to add them.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I am creating a \_\_\_\_\_.

Note below where special details exist or should be added.

## Introduction

- **Hook your readers** with a story, perhaps using some of your writing from your original description of the problem.
- **Transition** to your opinion or claim statement.
- State a clear, **specific opinion or claim** that captures your point of view about the root causes of a problem and proposes a solution.

## Body

- Support your opinion or claim with at least **3 supporting reasons**.
- Remember to include **at least one piece of evidence** for each reason from a trustworthy outside source.
- After you incorporate your evidence, you will need to **explain your reasoning** to readers or listeners, so they know why this evidence supports your opinion or claim.
- Your body paragraphs should follow a **reason-evidence-explanation** pattern

## Conclusion

- In your conclusion, you should **recap** how each step of reason-evidence-explanation builds to your recommendation or call to action.
- And finally, your conclusion should answer the question, **“Why does this matter?”**