**Activity: Introduction to the Language of Argument**

Directions

Students should be put in pairs or groups of three. Each student first read the New York Times article, from July 18, 2017, entitled “A Movie Heroine’s Long Quest to Passing ‘Go,’” then students should each answer the questions below in complete sentences and independently. Then, students should discuss with each other their responses to each question, noting in the space below how they would revise their response, in light of the discussion. Finally, pairs (or groups) will be asked to share out both their responses and the portions of the discussion that led to revisions.

Questions

**1. What is Annie Rose’s overall argumentative position in her letter to Hasbro, written in early 2016?**

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**Revision resulting from group discussion:**

**2. Annie Rose makes two argumentative claims in her letter to support her position. Quote one of them and paraphrase (put in your own words) the other.**

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**Revision resulting from group discussion:**

**3. What evidence does Annie Rose use to support each of her two arguments?**

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**Revision resulting from group discussion:**

**4. Assess the strength of the two arguments made in Annie Rose’s letter. What are their strengths? Do they have any weaknesses? If so, what is the most important weakness of each?**

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**Revision resulting from group discussion:**

**5. What “evidence from authority” referenced in the article might Annie Rose and her family have used, either in the letter or later in the follow-up to the letter?**

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**Revision resulting from group discussion:**

**6. The Monopoly game manufacturer Hasbro has made several counter-arguments, both explicitly and implicitly, to Annie Rose’s argumentative position. Paraphrase two of the counter-claims**

**Counter-claim 1:**

**Counter-claim 2:**

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**Revision resulting from group discussion:**

**7. Ms. Goldman (Annie Rose’s mother) refutes (at least) one of Hasbro’s counter-arguments directly, in the article. Paraphrase the counter-claim she responds to, then summarize the two rebuttal arguments in her refutation.**

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**Revision resulting from group discussion:**

**8. Evaluate the clashing argumentation between Hasbro and the Goodman family. Setting aside the public relations implications (influenced by the publication of the article), which side do you think prevails in this dispute, and why?**

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**Revision resulting from group discussion:**