# Educational Relevancy | EVIDENCE-BASED ARGUMENTS
# ARGUMENT WARS: PLAYER IMPACT GUIDE
AGE 10+ | 1 Hour

*"We have a complex system of government. You have to teach it to every generation. We want [young people] to continue to be a part of it. We need 'em more than ever."*

--Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Founder, iCivics

**THEME FOR THIS GUIDE:** Evidence-Based Arguments
In *Argument Wars*, from the iCivics suite, the user take the role of a lawyer in one of several important and historic Supreme Court cases, competing against an opponent in a "battle" of logic and persuasion. Do kids deserve the same rights as adults? Is burning the American flag protected by freedom of speech? Are people guaranteed the right of a fair trial? Each case presents you with an arsenal of ideas, research facts, and past cases, making these pieces of information your "tools" with which to construct a strong argument. However, not all of them are relevant and it's up to you to choose the best evidence to support your side and win the case. When rights are on the line, this means war! For more information, visit: http://bit.ly/1cnQOfO

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| **WHY USE THIS GUIDE?** | In this guide, we invite you to think about *Argument Wars* as a model of argument building. As you play, reflect on your experience. How does the game break down the parts of an argument? Why is strong support important to making a strong argument? What kinds of evidence can be used in real court cases to support a claim? <br><br> *Answer the questions below and add up your points when you are finished!* |
| **GAME BASICS** | • Start your first case, what was it about?[+1] <br> • Use a piece of evidence to support your argument. How did it affect your case? Did it help?[+1] <br> • Object to your opponent's argument. How did you defend the objection? [+2] <br> • What about evidence does the judge respond to well? When does the judge reject your claims? [+2] <br> • How do you make a compelling argument in the *Argument Wars*? [+3] |
| **THEME INSIGHTS** | • Which case did you chose? Did you have prior knowledge about the case, and were you able to use it effectively? Why or why not? [+1] <br> • What made it difficult to select evidence for your argument? How did you choose? [+2] <br> • Why was some evidence less effective for supporting your argument? Why did it not work the way you expected? [+2] <br> • After supporting your argument, how did that set up your success with future evidence choices? [+3] <br> • Why were Supreme Court precedents useful as evidence in your cases? What about the United States legal systems makes prior case decisions important for legal arguments? [+3] |
| **WORLD CONNECTIONS** | • How is evidence used in real cases? What happens if the evidence is not available?[+1] <br> • How does *Argument Wars* help you to identify good evidence for arguments? [+2] <br> • How can you use evidence in your life? Where would it benefit you the most? [+2] <br> • Evidence can come in many forms, what are some types of evidence? How can they be used? [+3] |

*Bonus Challenge:* Look up a Supreme Court case that you didn't learn about in the game. Learn about each side and the Supreme Court's final ruling. Then, try to construct an argument opposing the ruling using the same kinds of supports you would use in Argument Wars, such as Amendments, Facts, and Ideas. Was it easy to do? Do you think your argument was strong? Post it to YouTube, and share the link on the Center for Games & Impact Facebook page at http://facebook.com/gamesandimpact.