

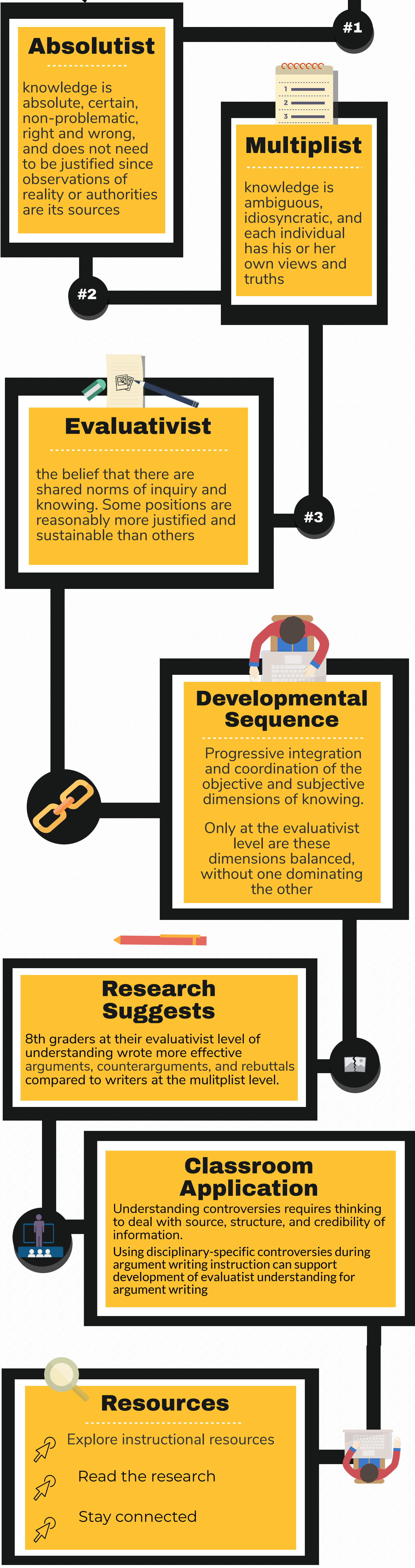


Three Levels of Reasoning Skills in Students' Argumentative Writing



Definitions Research Classroom Application Resources

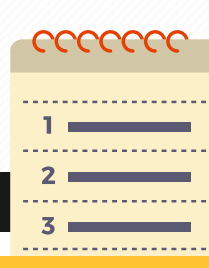
Three Developmental Levels



#1

Absolutist

knowledge is absolute, certain, non-problematic, right and wrong, and does not need to be justified since observations of reality or authorities are its sources



Multiplist

knowledge is ambiguous, idiosyncratic, and each individual has his or her own views and truths

#2

Evaluativist

the belief that there are shared norms of inquiry and knowing. Some positions are reasonably more justified and sustainable than others

#3

Developmental Sequence

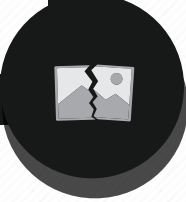
Progressive integration and coordination of the objective and subjective dimensions of knowing.

Only at the evaluativist level are these dimensions balanced, without one dominating the other



Research Suggests

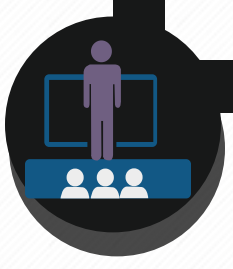
8th graders at their evaluativist level of understanding wrote more effective arguments, counterarguments, and rebuttals compared to writers at the multiplist level.






Classroom Application

Understanding controversies requires thinking to deal with source, structure, and credibility of information.

Using disciplinary-specific controversies during argument writing instruction can support development of evaluativist understanding for argument writing



Resources

-  Explore instructional resources
-  Read the research
-  Stay connected

