

Example of Hand-out 3.3: Argument Graphic Organizer for Facilitator Use

CLAIM: The colonies must go to war with Britain. It is the only option left to them.	
COUNTERCLAIM(S) / OPPOSING OR ALTERNATE CLAIM(S): The colonies should wait. There is still hope for peace and reconciliation, and they are too weak to prevail at this time.	
REASONS	EVIDENCE
The colonies have tried everything that could be done to stop the tyranny of the ministry and Parliament, but to no avail.	Their petitions have been slighted, their remonstrances have been met with more violence and insult, and their pleas have been disregarded or met with contempt. Earlier in the speech: Britain has responded to their petitions with war-like preparations (fleets and armies) that cover their waters and darken the land.
The colonies are strong enough now to win, and if they wait they will actually become weaker.	Three million armed people in a country such as this are strong enough to fight any force the enemy can send. Irresolution and inaction only makes people weaker. Waiting until there is a British guard stationed in every house will make them weaker.
It's too late to go back. The war has already started. Retreat will mean submission and slavery.	The chains are already forged; their clanking can be heard on the plains of Boston. The war has already begun; colonists are already in the field.