

Cross-Curricular Argumentation Guide A

Name:	Date:	Class:	Topic: Face masks prevent spread of viruses
<p>1. Clarify the claim with any qualifier and define key terms. Face masks are a critical tool in curbing the spread of a contagious virus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • face mask - a protective mask covering the nose and mouth • contagious virus - a submicroscopic organism that causes an infectious disease which spreads from person to person 			
<p>2. List the evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meta-analysis of 172 studies concluded wearing face masks significantly reduces the risk of viral transmission. (<i>The Lancet</i>, June 1, 2020) • A study of people infected with the flu and coronaviruses found that even loose-fitting surgical masks blocked almost all contagious droplets the wearer breathed out. (<i>Nature Medicine</i>, April 3, 2020) • In a study of Beijing households where everyone wore a facemask before a family member was even confirmed to have the coronavirus, the risk of transmission was cut by 79%. (BMJ Global Health, May 2020) • A modeling study concluded that if the majority of people wore face masks in public, even homemade ones, this could dramatically reduce the spread of a contagious virus. (<i>Proceedings of the Royal Society A</i>, June 2020) 			
<p>3. Analyze the reasoning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because all 4 of these published studies found that wearing masks significantly reduces the spread of a virus by blocking contagious droplets the wearer breathed out, face masks should be viewed as a critical tool in curbing the spread of a contagious virus. 			
<p>4. Identify other arguments for or against the claim. WebMD says viruses spread mainly in droplets that fly out when you cough or sneeze. If those droplets enter the eyes, nose, or throat of another person, the other person is likely to become infected.</p>			
<p>5. Make a judgment about the quality of evidence, reasoning, and other arguments. The evidence is good because all of it is published in reputable journals. However, numbers of participants in the studies were not given. The reasoning is logical because evidence from multiple studies is used to support the claim. WebMD corroborates why a mask is effective.</p>			
<p>6. State why you accept or reject the claim. Because of scientific evidence, logical reasoning, and corroboration, I accept the claim that face masks are a critical tool in curbing the spread of a contagious virus.</p>			