**Grade-Level Standard** | **DLM Essential Element** | **Linkage Levels**
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ELA.RI.8.8 Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced | ELA.EE.RI.8.8 Determine the argument made by an author in an informational text | **Initial Precursor**
- Realizes that what he or she is thinking or viewing may or may not be the same as what other people see or think
**Distal Precursor**
- Can determine what the points are that the author of an unfamiliar informational text is trying to communicate to the reader
**Proximal Precursor**
- Can find out how specific points made by an author in an informational text relate to the reasons supporting it
**Target**
- Can identify an explicitly made argument (must be overtly stated in the text) in an informational text. Note - locating the argument is similar to noting the overall main idea. In a persuasive text there is a central argument presented with several claims and evidence to back the claims
**Successor:**
- Can identify an argument as an association between a claim and its evidence

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>How is the Initial Precursor related to the Target?</th>
<th>How is the Distal Precursor related to the Target?</th>
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<td><strong>Initial Precursor:</strong> As students work toward determining the argument an author is making, students can work on recognizing that they have thoughts, ideas, and opinions that may be different from others. In the context of shared reading, teachers can help students begin to identify their own thoughts or views using the DLM Familiar Texts and other texts that prominently feature opinions or preferences.</td>
<td><strong>Distal Precursor:</strong> Determining the argument an author is making in a text requires readers to understand the explicit points or information the author includes in the text. Students at the Distal Precursor linkage level can work toward this by reading informational texts to determine what explicit points the author makes.</td>
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A diagram showing the relationship of nodes in the mini-map appears below.

**Key to map codes in upper right corner of node boxes:**

- **IP** Initial Precursor
- **SP** Supporting
- **DP** Distal Precursor
- **S** Successor
- **PP** Proximal Precursor
- **UN** Untested
- **T** Target
ELA.EE.RI.8.8 - Determine the argument made by an author in an informational text.
ELA-385
Can identify the reasons that support points made in an informational text

ELA-1412
Can identify the relationship between specific points and the reasons supporting them in an informational text.

ELA-1506
Can identify an explicitly made argument in an informational text.

ELA-1479
Can identify an argument as an association between a claim and its evidence.