“What is an argument? In academic writing, an argument is usually a main idea, often called a “claim” or “thesis statement,” backed up with evidence that supports the idea. In the majority of college papers, you will need to make some sort of claim and use evidence to support it, and your ability to do this well will separate your papers from those of students who see assignments as mere accumulations of fact and detail. It is time to stake out a position and prove why it is a good position for a thinking person to hold.” – The University of North Carolina’s Writing Center

Task: As a group discuss the arguments that you created in pairs based on the sources that you read. Pick the four most persuasive arguments and record them in the table below:

**Constructing Arguments**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Nationalism was Constructive because:** | **Nationalism was Destructive because:** |
| **Argument 1:** | **Argument 1:** |
| **Argument 2:** | **Argument 2:** |
| **Argument 3:** | **Argument 3:** |
| **Argument 4:** | **Argument 4:** |

As a group, what position do you find the most persuasive? Why?

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