Formative Assessment #1: Identifying the Argument

Task: Read the following paragraphs. Highlight or underline the sentence that states the author’s argument.

Paragraph 1:
I think cats are better pets than dogs. First of all cats bathe themselves and most of them do not need brushing. Also, cats enjoy being alone. You can leave them at home for the day while you go to school. A cat needs much less exercise than a dog too. In conclusion, cats are much easier to care for. This is why cats are better pets than dogs!

Paragraph 2:
Dogs make better pets than cats for many reasons. First, dogs are patient and make great listeners. Dogs are great for someone who lives alone or needs company. Also, most dogs will bark if there is danger. They can warn their owners and keep them safe. Overall, there are many benefits to owning a dogs. They are the perfect pet for you!

Paragraph 3:
It is a fun and easy way to get a lot of exercise. I think I should get a trampoline in the backyard. Also, I can stay home and invite my friends over to play so you can always keep an eye on me and make sure I am safe. Even though a trampoline can be expensive, it is something I can use for many years.

Rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>I’ve got it!</th>
<th>I need more time!</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I can identify the argument in a paragraph</td>
<td>Highlights/underlines the sentence that states the argument for 2 or all 3 paragraphs</td>
<td>Highlights/underlines the sentence that states the argument for 1 or 0 paragraphs</td>
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