



# STEPS FOR WRITING AN ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

# What is an Argumentative Essay?

- An argumentative essay is a piece of writing that takes a stance on an issue. In a good argumentative essay, a writer attempts to persuade readers to understand and support their point of view about a topic by stating their reasoning and providing evidence to back it up.
- Argumentative essay writing is a common assignment for high school and college students. Generally, argumentative essay topics are related to science, technology, politics, and health care.

# Essay Outline

Argumentative essays should have a straightforward structure so they are easy for readers to follow. The goal of an argumentative essay is to clearly outline a point of view, reasoning, and evidence. A good argumentative essay should follow this structure:

# Introduction & Thesis Statement

**Introductory paragraph.** The first paragraph of your essay should outline the topic, provide background information necessary to understand your argument, outline the evidence you will present and states your thesis.

**The thesis statement.** This is part of your first paragraph. It is a one-sentence summary of your main point and claim.

# Body Paragraphs

**Body paragraphs.** A typical argumentative essay comprises three or more paragraphs that explain the reasons why you support your thesis. Each body paragraph should cover a different idea or piece of evidence and contain a **topic sentence** that clearly and concisely explains why the reader should agree with your position.

Body paragraphs are where you back up your claims with **examples, research, statistics, studies,** and **text citations.** Address opposing points of view and disprove them or explain why you disagree with them. Presenting facts and considering a topic from every angle adds credibility and will help you gain a reader's trust.

# Conclusion

- **Conclusion.** One paragraph that restates your thesis and summarizes all of the arguments made in your body paragraphs. Rather than introducing new facts or more arguments, a good conclusion will appeal to a reader's emotions. In some cases, writers will use a personal anecdote explaining how the topic personally affects them.

Video



# Practice

- Go to the files tab on our teams page.
- Select an essay to read.
- Follow the outline provided and write your own essay.
- Turn it in when complete.
- Let me know if you have any questions.