

Paper Due? Why Suffer? THAT'S OUR JOB!



ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY OUTLINE

- I. **Introduction** -- (sets the tone for the entire essay -- be serious, formal, convincing)
 - A. Lead (hook, attention-getter, motivator)
 - 2-4 well-developed sentences
 - Use an anecdote (a little story), startling facts, surprising statistics, a quotation, a contrary opinion, an emotionally charged statement, or any combination of the above.
 - B. **Background information** (2-3 sentences to explain the history or background or seriousness of the issue)
 - C. **Thesis statement/Claim** (strong, clear statement of your position on the issue) Samples:
 - Participation in school athletics builds character.
 - Children up to the age of ten and pregnant women should receive free medical care.
 - A class in multicultural literature should be required for graduation.

(The thesis always includes the topic + position.)

- D. **Blueprint** (a sentence that offers 2-3 lines of argumentation that will support the thesis statement) Sample:
 - Jogging is an overrated form of exercise. (Thesis statement)
 - Few joggers consider that jogging can be hazardous to one's emotional, financial, and physical health. (Blueprint)
- II. First body paragraph (use order of importance and start with your weakest argument)
 - A. **Transition** + **Topic sentence** (begins each body paragraph; your first line of argumentation in your blueprint)
 - B. Support/Evidence
 - facts/statistics
 - examples/observations
 - expert's/authority's opinion
 - C. Concluding sentence (ties the above together and leads into next paragraph)
- III. **Second body paragraph** (**stronger argument**-the second line of argumentation in your blueprint) Include transitions.
 - A. Transition + Topic sentence

- B. Support/evidence
- C. Concluding sentence
- IV. **Third body paragraph** (the **strongest argument**—the third line of argumentation in your blueprint.) Include transitions and points A, B, and C above.
- V. **Counterclaims/Concessions** --the opposing point of view (admitting they have a point) **and rebuttals/counter arguments/refutations** (countering the opposing view). Not necessarily a separate paragraph but may be structured that way. May be included in the intro, the body, or the conclusion.

Sample:

- □ Some people argue that teenagers are better drivers than older people. It's true that young people have faster reflexes, but they also have less experience on the road....
- VI. **Conclusion** (should be powerful and leave a lasting impression) **A. Reworded thesis** statement/claim
 - B. One or more of the following:
 - ☐ **call to action** (what is the next logical step) Examples:
 - ➤ Our responsibility is...
 - > Research the subject
 - \square solution
 - C. **Clincher statement** (tie it back to the lead—this rounds everything out for the reader)
- VI. Works Cited (a list of sources or references on a separate page at the end of the essay)

Additional Argumentative Essay Helps -- Phrases to Use When Presenting Evidence

- 1. One piece of evidence that shows this . . .
- 2. Proof of this is obvious when...
- 3. Further proof of . . . is obvious when . . .
- 4. Additional proof of . . . is shown by . . .
- 5. More evidence of . . . can be seen in . . .
- 6. ... is also revealed through ...
- 7. ... can also be seen when ...
- 8. ... is also shown by ...
- 9. It is obvious from . . . that . . .
- 10. It should be clear from what . . . says that . . .
- 11. ...'s words reveal that ...
- 12. There can be no doubt that . . .
- 13. Undoubtedly . . . / Without a doubt . . .
- 14. There can be no question that . . .
- 15. As the evidence correctly shows . . .
- 16. One is forced to conclude that . . .
- 17. Finally, the most important evidence showing that . . . is revealed when . . .
- 18. Final proof of . . .

- 19. The evidence is clear: (add reworded topic sentence)
- 20. Only one conclusion can be drawn: (add reworded topic sentence)

DO NOT USE phrases such as the following: DO USE:

as I have said in fact obviously as I have proved clearly certainly as you can see truly definitely surely to sum up

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