



Ministry Of Education

Hawalli Educational Zone

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English Department

(Argumentative Writing Workshop)

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Argumentative Essay

What is the differences between argumentative and persuasive writing?

	Persuasive Writing	Argumentative Writing
Example	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Why should smoking be banned in public places?* Should college students take part in community service programmes to graduate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Are you for or against establishing residential areas at the expense of agricultural lands?
Content	Persuasive texts present one point of view	Texts that argue need to consider both sides of the argument.
Starting Point	Identify your topic and choose your side.	Identify your topic, research it, and decide which side to support
Purpose	The objective of a persuasive essay is to "win" the reader over to your side of an argument	The objective is to show that you have a valid argument, allowing the reader either to adopt your position or not.
Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Combines facts with emotions to convince the reader.* Emotion-based* Ignores opposing ideas.* Makes claims without evidence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Offers facts , reasons, and evidence to show the writer has valid points.* Logic-based* Acknowledges the opposing claims.* Always provides evidence with claims.
Tone	The tone is emotionally charged and more aggressive.	There is a calmer tone of just trying to get the reader to acknowledge the writer's side is worthy of consideration.

Purpose of Argumentative Essays:

- * An argument follows when two groups disagree about something.
- * People can have different opinions and can offer reasons in support of their arguments.

Types of Argumentative Essays:

- Discuss the pros and cons of
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of
- Discuss the good and the bad effects of
- What are the arguments for and against

Exercise 1

Choose a text book activity that can be adapted as argumentative writing.

[illegible]

Planning / Organizing The Argumentative Essay:

When you are planning the argumentative essay, be aware that the essay should contain the following:

- The argumentative essay should **introduce and explain the issue or case**. The reader needs to understand what issue the writer is going to argue.
- The essay should **offer reasons and support** for those reasons. In other words, the essay should prove its point.
- The essay should **refute opposing arguments**. (refute: to prove wrong by argument or to show that something is invalid/untrue/illogical)
- **conclusion**

OUTLINE

Introduction:

Catch the reader's attention (**hook**)

Introduce the subject of the essay. (**background information**)

State the thesis. (**thesis statement**)

Body:

Paragraph 1: Give the arguments in favour of the statement.

Reason 1: ➡ Facts and examples

Reason 2: ➡ Facts and examples

Paragraph 2: Give the arguments against the statement.

Reason 1: ➡ Facts and examples

Reason 2: ➡ Facts and examples

Conclusion:

Conclude by giving a well-balanced consideration.

Restates but **does not repeat** the thesis

Exercise 2:

Make an outline for each of the following argumentative topics:

1. Medical research involving animals has dramatically improved the health of human race. Despite these benefits, some people believe that animals shouldn't be used for testing medical techniques and drugs.
2. Online shopping appeals to some people of different ages, while others prefer to keep away from it.
3. An increasing number of people are now using the Internet to socialise with others. Some people think this has brought people closer together while others think that people are becoming more isolated.
4. Nowadays children watch a lot of TV and play video games. However, some people think that these activities are not good for child's mental health.
5. Some people are for establishing residential areas at the expense of agricultural lands, whereas some others are against.

Developing Introductions:

Your introduction is where you lay the foundation for your argument. It's made up of a hook, background information and a thesis statement.



When writing an introduction...

- ☐ Avoid boring the reader by starting with a dictionary definition.
- ☐ Don't introduce ideas that are offtopic *unless* you connect them to your subject.
- ☐ Avoid listing points in your thesis that you don't address in body paragraphs.
- ☐ Avoid announcing what you're going to do, such as "In this paper I will..." or explain why you're writing about a specific subject: "As I was trying to think about an appropriate article for this assignment, I picked up this magazine and the image on the cover caught my eye."
- ☐ Avoid apologizing for your opinions.

Always...

- ☐ Use specific details.
- ☐ Use an attention-grabber or hook.
- ☐ Link the attention-grabber to the topic.
- ☐ Write a thesis that states your position on the topic.

THESIS STATEMENTS

A thesis statement is a direct statement that explains the topic of your essay, what you believe about that topic and why you believe it. When you write an essay, you **MUST** clearly state your thesis at the end of the introduction paragraph. It needs to be there.

- ☐ If you do not have a thesis, you do not have a quality essay.
- ☐ The reason you write an entire essay is to **PROVE** your thesis statement.

Every thesis needs these three parts:

1. **Identification** (what is the topic you are talking about?)
2. **Claim** (What do you believe about this topic) ?
3. **Direction** (What are the main reasons you can support your claim? This will basically outline the body paragraphs of your essay)

You will need to form these three parts into a *complete argumentative sentence*:

Identification of Topic + Claim (Belief about topic) + **Direction** (reason 1, reason 2, and reason 3)

Points to Consider When Writing a Thesis Statement:

1. Do not “telegraph” your thesis.

A good thesis does not need to state “This paper will show” or “I hope to show.” Your point should be apparent to readers.

2. How have you explained "How"? Why?

A good thesis statement often answers the questions how or why.

3. Use the thesis while writing.

A thesis serves a useful purpose: the writer can check the body of the paper against it, since it promises a reader what will follow. If the body contains other information, such as other major reasons for the differences cited, then the thesis might need to be revised.

False Assumptions Concerning Thesis Statements:

- 1. A thesis statement always comes at the end of the first paragraph.** This is a natural position for a statement of focus, but it's not the only one. Some theses can be stated in the opening sentences of an essay; long research papers might require a paragraph or two of introduction; others might not be fully formulated until the end.
- 2. A thesis statement must be one sentence in length.** A complex argument or long research paper might require a tightly-knit paragraph to make an initial statement of position.
- 3. You can't start writing an essay until you have a perfect thesis statement.** It is advisable to draft a tentative thesis statement, but changing and refining a thesis is a natural product of research and evolving ideas while writing.
- 4. A thesis statement must give three points of support.** A thesis statement should indicate that the essay will explain and give evidence for its assertion, but points don't need to come in any specific number.
- 5. Thesis statements cover only one point.** A thesis statement, especially for a longer research paper, might make multiple points.

Exercise 3:

Write a suitable thesis statement for each of the following argumentative topics:

1. Medical research involving animals has dramatically improved the health of human race. Despite these benefits, some people believe that animals shouldn't be used for testing medical techniques and drugs.

2. Online shopping appeals to some people of different ages, while others prefer to keep away from it.

3. An increasing number of people are now using the Internet to socialise with others. Some people think this has brought people closer together while others think that people are becoming more isolated.

4. Nowadays children watch a lot of TV and play video games. However, some people think that these activities are not good for child's mental health.

5. Some people are for establishing residential areas at the expense of agricultural lands, whereas some others are against.

Developing Body Paragraphs:

The middle section, or body, of your essay develops and supports your thesis. To do so, each body paragraph should include the following:

- **Unity**—A paragraph has unity when every sentence relates directly to the main idea of the paragraph.
- **Coherence**—A paragraph is coherent if its sentences are smoothly and logically connected to one another.
- **Development**—A body paragraph is well developed if it contains the examples, evidence, and explanations readers need to understand its main idea. Also, in order to present details that convince the audience the thesis is reasonable, body paragraphs should be structured with four essential elements: a topic sentence, evidence, explanation, and a concluding sentence.

Below is a step-by-step process for drafting a coherent, well-developed, traditional body paragraph that supports the thesis of an argumentative essay:

1. Write a **topic sentence** that informs the reader of the purpose of the paragraph. This basic format helps the reader follow the train of thought: *A key reason (**reference to your thesis**) is (**reason to be addressed in this paragraph**)*.
2. Begin the **body** of the paragraph by introducing evidence (example, authority, statistics, analogy, hypothetical situation) with a transitional phrase (such as “For example”).
3. Since in an argument the reader needs to be persuaded to agree with the thesis, be sure to explain how the evidence supports the topic sentence.
4. To further develop the paragraph, make the transition to the next piece of evidence and continue to support it by following steps 2-3.
5. Write a **concluding sentence**

Exercise 4:

Write five supporting details on each point of view related to the following argumentative topics:

1. Medical research involving animals has dramatically improved the health of human race. Despite these benefits, some people believe that animals shouldn't be used for testing medical techniques and drugs.
2. Online shopping appeals to some people of different ages, while others prefer to keep away from it.
3. An increasing number of people are now using the Internet to socialise with others. Some people think this has brought people closer together while others think that people are becoming more isolated.
4. Nowadays children watch a lot of TV and play video games. However, some people think that these activities are not good for child's mental health.
5. Some people are for establishing residential areas at the expense of agricultural lands, whereas some others are against.

Developing Conclusions:

Conclude the essay effectively by using one of the following methods:

1. Call for action
2. Issue a warning
3. Use a relevant quote
4. Refer to the intro

Method 1: Call for action

By the end of the paper the readers should be convinced of the thesis. Provide a sense of urgency by encouraging and even imploring them to act. This can be a powerful and effective way to conclude an argumentative essay.

Method 2: Issue a warning

To avoid telling the reader what to do, explaining the inevitable negative consequences can be an equally powerful way to conclude.

Method 3: Use a relevant quote

The wise words of a relevant authority, who has a potential impact on readers, can effectively conclude your paper. Use a relevant quote that has potential impact on readers.

Method 4: Refer back to the introduction

Linking the conclusion to the introduction is an effective way to conclude your paper since it reinforces your main idea or thesis and makes the reader feel like we've come full circle.

USEFUL TIPS to WRITE A PARAGRAPH / ESSAY

Answering the question:

Read the question carefully. Make sure you write about the title you are given, not one you would have preferred!

Planning:

To write a clear and well-argued opinion, which does not confuse the reader, it is essential to organize your thoughts before you start. Brainstorm as many ideas/arguments as you can in favour of your opinion on a scrap of paper. Remember you will need to say why you believe in these ideas, too. Then plan out your paragraphs.

Giving the other side of the argument:

You should mention opposing views, but only briefly and in a short, separate paragraph. Make sure your side of the argument stands out to your reader's opinion language

To write well developed paragraphs:

Avoid strong feelings (don't say: nobody does this, or it is impossible to disagree with me)

Use generalizations (e.g. people say/believe/consider)

Do not use strong personal expressions (e.g. I think)

Use linking words (e.g. therefore, although, however etc.)

Use sequencing (e.g. firstly, secondly, lastly)

Make reference to other sources (e.g. The government claims that...)

Give examples – not personal thoughts (e.g. products such as sprayer can destroy the environment)

Give up banal introductions. Write something more original (Don't write: This topic has been important since ancient times. When? Too vague = unclear)

Remember to use the transition words

Exercise 5:

Which words or phrases you find as useful language to:]

1. introduce an argumentative topic

2. list points in the body paragraphs

3. add more points to the same topic

4. make contrasting points

5. write a concluding paragraph

TRANSITION SIGNALS / USEFUL LANGUAGE

A. Introduction paragraph

This **question / matter / subject** can be looked at from several points of view.

This **problem** should be considered in relation to

B. Body paragraphs

*** to list points:**

The first reason is

The second reason is

The third reason is

The third and most important reason is

The final reason is

First of all,

To start with,

Secondly,

Thirdly,

Finally,

One major advantage of,

A further advantage

In the first place

One major disadvantage of,

One point of view in favor/ against

Last but not least

*** to add more points to the same topic:**

What is more ...

In addition to ...

Apart from that

Furthermore,

Besides,

Also,

Apart from this,

*** to make contrasting point**

On the other hand

While

Even though

One can argue that

However

Nevertheless

Although

Yet

In spite of

Despite

It can be argued that

But

C. Conclusion paragraph

To sum up,

On balance,

It seems that

All in all,....

All things considered,

As was previously stated

To conclude ...

In conclusion,

In my view ...

I believe ...

On the whole,