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**ESSAY TYPES: ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY**

**1.Nature and definition**

In *an argumentative essay*, your job is to make the reader agree with your opinion about a controversial topic. You have to (1) state your opinion, (2) give reasons to support your opinion, and (3) argue against the opposite opinion. Overall, you *must convince* the audience that your side of the argument is correct. To convince the audience, your essay must be balanced—it must include your viewpoint and the opposing viewpoint, or counterargument. Even though you are arguing only one side of an issue, you must think about what the other side would say about your opinion. After you give *the counterargument*, you must refute it by showing that it is wrong. If your essay is balanced, a reader is more likely to agree with**.**

When an argumentative essay is assigned by your teacher, it is important to distinguish whether the assignment asks you to: a) Present both sides of the issue equally and objectively

OR b) Present your position on the issue as stronger than the opposing position.

An argumentative essay is an essay that uses evidence and facts to support the claim it’s making. Its purpose is to persuade the reader to agree with the argument being made. A good argumentative essay will *use facts and evidence to support the argument*, rather than just the author’s thoughts and opinions.

**1.1. Argumentative /expository essays**

The argumentative essay is a genre of writing that requires the student to investigate a topic; collect, generate, and evaluate evidence; and establish a position on the topic in a concise manner.

Some confusion may occur between *the argumentative* essay and *the expository essay*. These two genres are similar, but the argumentative essay differs from the expository essay in the amount of pre-writing (invention) and research involved. The argumentative essay is commonly assigned as a capstone or final project in first year writing or advanced composition courses and involves lengthy, detailed research. Expository essays involve less research and are shorter in length. Expository essays are often used for in-class writing exercises or tests.

Argumentative essay assignments generally call for extensive research of literature or previously published material. Argumentative assignments may also require empirical research where the student collects data through interviews, surveys, observations, or experiments. Detailed research allows the student to learn about the topic and to understand different points of view regarding the topic so that she/he may choose a position and support it with the evidence collected during research. Regardless of the amount or type of research involved, argumentative essays must establish a clear thesis and follow sound reasoning

**2.Argumentative essay structure (Organisation)**

The most common type of argumentative essay has six paragraphs. Like all essays, it begins with an introduction and ends with a conclusion. In between are the body paragraphs where you must do three things: support your opinion, present the opposing point of view, and tell why that viewpoint is wrong.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **INTRODUCTION** | Paragraph 1 | Hook  Connecting/Background Information  Main idea Statement/Thesis Statement |
| **BODY** | Paragraph 2  Paragraph 3  Paragraph 4  **Paragraph 5** | **Support 1 (first reason)**  • Explanation, detail, example  • Explanation, detail, example  **Support 2 (second reason)**  • Explanation, detail, example  • Explanation, detail, example  **Support 3 (third reason)**  • Explanation, detail, example  • Explanation, detail, example  Opposite Side  • Counterargument 1  • Refutation (ATTACK)  • Counterargument 2  • Refutation (ATTACK) |
| **CONCLUSION** | Paragraph 6 | Repeat your thesis statement in different words Suggestion/Opinion/Prediction for the future |

**3. Kinds of argumentative essays :**Listed below are three different types of argumentative essays:

***3.1. A complete argument***

An argument does not have to be formal. It can be staged at anytime and anywhere. Debates with classmates are normal as it shows on how both persons are willing to exchange information about a certain issue in an intellectual discourse. However, in a debate, you must make sure that you have made all your points clear before trying to end the argument. Should your points be incomplete, it will eventually raise questions to the opposition and you will have no comeback. You may also see [personal essay](https://www.examples.com/education/personal-essay.html).

***3.2. The five-paragraph essay***

A very common method for writing an argumentative essay is the five-paragraph approach. But take note that there is no standard in writing an essay. The five-paragraph method consists of (a) an introductory paragraph (b) three supporting evidence body paragraphs that may include discussion of opposing views and (c) a conclusion.

***3.3. Longer argumentative essays***

If there are issues that require more research and more time to conduct, then this is where an ordinary argumentative essay becomes longer and more detailed.

Essay writing per se is no easy task to do. But with just the right amount of hard work, a bit of practice, and a creative mind, anyone can do it! Remember, always stand up to your convictions even when all else fails.

**4. An Argumentative Essay sample**

As online learning becomes more common and more and more resources are converted to digital form, some people have suggested that public libraries should be shut down and, in their place, everyone should be given an iPad with an e-reader subscription.

Proponents of this idea state that it will save local cities and towns money because libraries are expensive to maintain. They also believe it will encourage more people to read because they won’t have to travel to a library to get a book; they can simply click on what they want to read and read it from wherever they are. They could also access more materials because libraries won’t have to buy physical copies of books; they can simply rent out as many digital copies as they need.

However, it would be a serious mistake to replace libraries with tablets. First, digital books and resources are associated with less learning and more problems than print resources. A study done on tablet vs book reading found that people read 20-30% slower on tablets, retain 20% less information, and understand 10% less of what they read compared to people who read the same information in print. Additionally, staring too long at a screen has been shown to cause numerous health problems, including blurred vision, dizziness, dry eyes, headaches, and eye strain, at much higher instances than reading print does. People who use tablets and mobile devices excessively also have a higher incidence of more serious health issues such as fibromyalgia, shoulder and back pain, carpal tunnel syndrome, and muscle strain. I know that whenever I read from my e-reader for too long, my eyes begin to feel tired and my neck hurts. We should not add to these problems by giving people, especially young people, more reasons to look at screens.

Second, it is incredibly narrow-minded to assume that the only service libraries offer is book lending. Libraries have a multitude of benefits, and many are only available if the library has a physical location. Some of these benefits include acting as a quiet study space, giving people a way to converse with their neighbors, holding classes on a variety of topics, providing jobs, answering patron questions, and keeping the community connected. One neighborhood found that, after a local library instituted community events such as play times for toddlers and parents, job fairs for teenagers, and meeting spaces for senior citizens, over a third of residents reported feeling more connected to their community. Similarly, a Pew survey conducted in 2015 found that nearly two-thirds of American adults feel that closing their local library would have a major impact on their community. People see libraries as a way to connect with others and get their questions answered, benefits tablets can’t offer nearly as well or as easily.

While replacing libraries with tablets may seem like a simple solution, it would encourage people to spend even more time looking at digital screens, despite the myriad issues surrounding them. It would also end access to many of the benefits of libraries that people have come to rely on. In many areas, libraries are such an important part of the community network that they could never be replaced by a simple object.

**5.Topics for argumentative essays**

After you choose a topic, think about what you know about it. What do you know about your side of the argument and what do you know about the opposite side of the argument? A good way to organize your ideas is to use a Pro & Con T-chart. [Pro = in favor of thesis statement, Con = against thesis statement] If you cannot think of several ideas for one or both sides, you should do more research about that topic or choose a different topic.

**Example :**Here is *a Pro & Con T-Chart* for an essay about cell-phones being allowed in classrooms.

* Thesis statement: Cell phones should not be allowed in university classrooms.

**PRO**

1.Cell phones distract students from learning if they send messages or play games in class.

2. Cell phones might ring in class and disturb the teacher.

3. Students could use cell phones to cheat on tests.

**CON**

1. Cell phones can easily be turned off and kept out of sight.

2. University students are not children and cellphones are important in an emergency.

3. Cell phones can be useful tools for education such a being used as a dictionary or to make

**6.The difference between argumentative and persuasive essays (** Provided by readwritethink ,International Reading Association, 2014)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Argumentative Writing** | **Persuasive Writing** |
| **Starting Point**: Identify your topic, research your topic, and decide which side to support. | **Starting Point**: Identify your topic and choose your side. |
| **Purpose**: Get the reader to recognize your side of the argument is valid. | **Purpose:** Get the reader to agree with your opinion. |
| **Techniques:**  1. Offers facts, reasons, and evidence to show the author has valid points  2*. Logic-based*  3. Acknowledges the opposing claims  4. May compare ideas to establish a position  5. Presents multiple sides but it is clear which is the author’s side  6. Always provides evidence with claims | **Techniques:**  1. *Combines* facts with emotions to convince the reader that the author is “right”  2. *Emotion-based*  3. Ignores counter claims  4. Presents only ideas that help establish a position  5. Only presents only one side: the author’s side  6. Makes *claims* without evidence |
| **Tone:** There is a calmer tone of just trying to get the reader to acknowledge the author’s side is worthy of consideration. | **Tone:** The tone is *emotionally* charged and more aggressive. |

**Activity one:**

A. Read these eight topics. Put a check mark (✔) next to the ones that could be good topics for argument essays. For others, identify their essay types

1.The first time I flew in a plane………………………………………….……………………..……..

2. University education should be free……………………………………………………………..

3. How and why birds fly south for the winter…………………………..……………………..

4. Responses to jokes……………………………………….…………………………………….………….

5. Describe the major stressors in teens' lives…………………………………………………….

6.  Is the Algerian society a throwaway one?..........................................................................

7. Poetry and prose……………………………………………………………….……………………………

8. What’s the best way to reduce the spread of corona virus?........................................................................

B. Can you think of four additional topics that would be excellent for an argumentative essay?

1………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………………………………………….

2………………………………………………………………………..………………………………………………………………………………..

3…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

4…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

**Activity two**:Select one of the topics you listed above (B) and develop it in an argumentative essay

"An enemy will agree, but a friend will argue". Russian Proverb