

Argument Essay Guidelines

This Individual Project is your first draft of your essay. These guidelines are designed as a reference for you to help you structure your essay so be sure to include all of the required parts. Complete your essay draft in a separate Word document for submission. Your essay will end up being at least 5 paragraphs in length, with a word count of 800 words. The following template will help you understand how to build your essay:

- I. **Introduction:** Begin with 1 paragraph introducing the argument and topic. The introduction should include the following:
 - a. **Attention-getter:** Include a statistic, fact, quote, or engaging thought or idea that grabs the reader's attention. Build off of that idea to give basic background on the topic and set the focus for the essay.
 - b. **Thesis statement:** Include a 1-sentence statement that specifies the following:
 - i. The topic
 - ii. The argument being made about the topic
- II. **Body paragraph(s):** Section 1: Support for your position (1–2 paragraphs)
 - a. Begin with a topic sentence that explains 1 supportive idea for your thesis statement.
 - b. Add details to your argument by providing specific examples.
- III. **Body paragraph(s):** Section 2: Support for your position (1–2 paragraphs)
 - a. Begin with a topic sentence that explains a second supportive idea for your thesis statement.
 - b. Use a transition word to help your writing flow. (Examples of transition words include additionally, furthermore, likewise, moreover, etc.)
 - c. Add details to support your topic sentence by providing specific examples that build your argument.
- IV. **Body paragraph:** Section 3: Support for your position (1–2 paragraphs)
 - a. Begin with a topic sentence that explains a third supportive idea for your thesis statement.
 - b. Use a transition word to help your writing flow. (Examples of transition words include additionally, furthermore, likewise, moreover, etc.)
 - c. Add details to support your topic sentence by providing specific examples that build your argument.
- V. **Conclusion** (1 paragraph)
 - a. Begin by revisiting the thesis statement in a summary statement.
 - b. Review the main points that you made as you developed your argument.
 - c. Call the reader to action or give your final thoughts on the topic.