

Argumentative Text

1/ Concept and definition:

In an **argumentative text** you discuss a subject or a problem, often with no obvious solutions. In this type of **text** you should discuss the topic from different angles, compare and contrast, and give your own opinions.

An **argumentative essay** uses evidence and facts to prove whether or not a thesis is true. It presents two sides of a single issue, and covers the most important arguments for and against. People sometimes confuse the **argumentative essay** and the persuasive **essay**.

2/ The difference between argumentative and persuasive essay:

An **argumentative** essay is quite similar to a **persuasive** essay, as it's designed to convince the reader of your point of view. The difference is while a persuasive essay may have a certain viewpoint, the argumentative essay will expand on it. For example, a persuasive essay will say that cities should take up more recycling programs. An argumentative essay will say why a certain city should do so, and give examples of how they could do so.

3/ Argumentative essay characteristics:

- An essay is argumentative when it argues in favor of a particular position.
- The essay's arguments are designed to support the position argued for in the essay.
- Remember that an argument is set of claims, the conclusion of which is supported by one or more premises.
- Thus, arguments consist of claims, and recall that a claim is a statement which is true or false.
- If an argumentative essay is good, then it contains credible claims, that is, those which are known to be true, or for which there is good even if not conclusive evidence.

4/ Argumentative Essay Structure

If you've been asked to argue for a certain point of view, you'll need to explore your reasons for supporting it, as well as refuting the claims against it. Here's how you could outline your essay:

- **Introduction:** Introduce your point of view, and explain how you're going to prove that you're in the right.
- **Thesis:** Here's where you bring in your main point of view. Going with the recycling example, this could be along the lines of *'This city should take up more recycling initiatives; at it can clean up streets and reduce waste by 30%.'* This should be backed up by good quality research.
- **Opposing claims:** Pick the most important claims against your argument, and take them down. Make it clear why they don't work, and show your research.

- **Your viewpoint:** Then, you'll need to argue for your own viewpoint. Show why your side is the winning one, and why.
- **Conclusion:** Wrap up your main points, without introducing anything new.

Argumentative essay format:

- Introduction:
 - Hook
 - Background
 - Stand
 - Preview of 3 Arguments
- Body:
 - Argument 1
 - Argument 2
 - Argument 3
 - Counterargument and Rebuttal
- Conclusion:
 - Restate stand
 - Restate 3 arguments

(NB: The **argumentative essay** introduction is where you present your topic and your thesis. It should include a hook in the first few sentences. A hook will grab the reader's attention and keep them reading. ... The first paragraph, according to good **argumentative essay format**, should include your main point or thesis statement.)

5/ How to Write Argumentative Essay:

- **Do your research:** Go look for research that supports your argument. Take notes, so you can easily reference the best pieces of research easily when you're writing.
- **Create an outline:** Plan out your essay. Write in your main points, and the points that you're planning to debunk.
- **Start writing:** Start wherever is easiest, as the order you write in won't matter. Try writing in your introduction last.
- **Edit and proofread:** Check your essay over before you hand it in, to edit out any easily overlooked mistakes.

6/ Argumentative Essay Topics:

Topics for this type of essay can vary a lot, as any subject can use this format. As a rule though, they can often be hot button topics. For example, they could include abortion, border control issues, and the death penalty.

7/ Argumentative Essay Examples:

If you want to try writing an argumentative essay yourself, try using one of these example questions:

- *'Should marijuana be legalized in the UK?'*
- *'Do children suffer if they only have one parent?'*
- *'Are all charities equally deserving?'*

Try giving these topics a go, and writing a few argumentative essays yourself. You'll soon have the skills to write great grading essays, every time.