The Argument Essay: In writing your argument essay, you will be required to investigate a topic, collect, generate, and evaluate evidence, and establish a position on the topic in a concise manner. An argument essay requires that you will need to do some research. You might even decide to collect data through interviews, or surveys. If you do decide to use interviews and/or surveys make sure that you include an appendix with the interview questions and/or survey with an explanation of how you analyzed the material. Research allows you to learn about the issue and to understand different points of view to better support your position. Argument essays must establish a clear thesis and follow sound, logical reasoning.

• A clear, concise, and defined thesis statement that occurs in the first paragraph of the essay. In the introductory paragraphs (1 and 2) of an argument essay, you should set the context by introducing the topic in a general way. Next, explain briefly why the topic is important or, why readers should care about the issue. Lastly, you should present the thesis statement. It is essential that the thesis be appropriately narrowed.

• Clear and logical transitions between the introduction, body, and conclusion. Without logical progression of thought, the reader is unable to follow the essay’s argument, and the structure will collapse. Transitions should wrap up the idea from the previous section and introduce the idea that is to follow in the next section.

• Body paragraphs include evidential support. Each paragraph should be limited to the discussion of one general idea. This will allow for clarity and direction throughout the essay. Each paragraph in the body of the essay must have some logical connection to the thesis statement in the opening paragraph. It is also important to explain how and why the evidence supports the thesis (claim). However, argumentative essays should also consider and explain differing points of view regarding the topic. Depending on the length of the assignment, you should dedicate one or two paragraphs of an argumentative essay to discussing conflicting opinions on the topic. Rather than explaining how these differing opinions are wrong outright, you should note how opinions that do not align with the argument might not be well informed or how they might be out of date.

• Evidential support (whether factual, logical, statistical, or anecdotal). The argumentative essay requires well-researched, accurate, detailed, and current information to support the thesis statement and consider other points of view. Some factual, logical, statistical, or anecdotal evidence should support the thesis. Consider multiple points of view when collecting evidence.

• A conclusion that does not simply restate the thesis, but readdresses it in light of the evidence provided. This is the portion of the essay that will leave the most immediate impression on the mind of the reader. Therefore, it must be effective and logical. Do not introduce any new information into the conclusion; rather, synthesize the information presented in the body of the essay. Restate why the topic is important, review the main points, and review your thesis.

• Essay requirements:
  5 + pages
  3-4 sources (one Internet website source), books, databases etc. (avoid Wikipedia)
  Typed, double-spaced (12 pt. font), Times New Roman
  MLA format

Avoid plagiarism, avoid plagiarism, avoid plagiarism, avoid plagiarism, avoid plagiarism