

Writing an Argumentative Piece from a Text

What is the difference between persuasive and argumentative?

An argumentative essay is based on logic and reasons while a persuasive essay is based on emotions and personal opinions.

While both types of writing will include evidence to support a “side”, argumentative writing depends on it.



In persuasive writing, you can argue a side you feel strongly about.

With argumentative writing, you should defend the side with the most evidence.

Vocabulary for Argumentative Essay

- **Claim** – Statement that the writer is trying to prove true.
 - **Synonyms** – Position, thesis, opinion
 - **Example of a Claim** – *Cell phone usage for teenagers should be limited*
- **Reason** – Statement that supports the claim; tells why or how
 - **Example of a Reason** – *Too much cell phone use affects a young person's mental health*
- **Evidence** – Facts; Proof from a credible (trusted) source
 - **Three Types of Evidence**
 - **Statistical Evidence** – Numerical information
 - **Example of Statistical Evidence** – *78% of teenagers check their mobile device hourly*
 - **Expert Evidence** – People considered experts in the topic give their personal interpretation of the information
 - **Example of Expert Evidence** - *Psychology professor Alex Smith said, "People who describe themselves as addicted to their cell phone or the Internet have high rates of depression and anxiety."*
 - **Fact or Examples** - Descriptions that give specific details to support the writer's claim
 - **Example of a Fact**- *Cell phone addiction can be physically bad because of "text neck," which is neck pain caused by constantly looking down at the cell phone*

Paragraphs in an Argumentative Essay

Paragraph 1:

Hook the reader

State a brief overview of purpose:

Thesis statement: (what are you going to prove) NO “I think” or “I believe”. State as a FACT)

Rorschach tests are/are not a valuable measure of mental stability.

Paragraph 2: Topic Sentence (reason 1)

Cite Evidence

Explain and give details::

Paragraph 3: Topic Sentence (reason 2)

Cite Evidence

Explain and give details::

Add a third argument (paragraph) if needed.

Conclusion:

Restate Claim (different wording)

Summarize reasons:

Call to action:

Write a brief, argumentative essay that claims whether or not the Rorschach tests were appropriate for determining if Charlie was suitable for the procedure. Include textual evidence to support your claims.