

# The Argumentative Essay

## Argumentative Essay

- ☐ 3 – 5 pages in length
- ☐ 3 – 5 sources for your information

The argumentative essay is an essay in which you argue a point -- an essay in which you provide proof that your point of view is correct. **Your topic must be approved by the instructor before you begin working on any other portion of the paper.**

## Research

Research comes first with this assignment! You will have only a few days to complete your research in class, so you need to be prepared to work on this assignment outside of class. Sources of your research include magazine articles, internet articles, books, documentaries, etc.

We will be using the traditional method of collecting information on your topic. It's very important that you keep up with your sources from the first moment you take notes!

For your sources, you need to write down specific information! You will need to keep your information organized so that you will now where you found your facts.

<b>For Books:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Author/ group responsible</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Title and subtitle of book</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Edition, volume number if applicable</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Place of publication (the first one listed if there are several)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Publisher</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Page number of the book where you found your information</li></ul>	<b>For Articles in magazines:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Author – may be unsigned</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Title of article</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Type of article (letters to editor, review) if applicable</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Name of periodical (magazine) or newspaper edition</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Volume and/or issue number</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Date of publication</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive page numbers of article</li></ul>	<b>For Internet articles:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Author – may be unsigned</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Title of article</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Type of article (letters to editor, review) if applicable</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete Internet website</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Date of last update</li></ul>
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If possible, get a printed copy of the article or the section of the book that you intend to use. This will also assist you in determining what to include in your paper.

Keep your research organized!!! One option is to put all research in a folder, and another option is to cut and paste your research into your composition notebook.

You will read your sources before putting them into your organized system. Highlight important information that will assist you in developing your argument. Don't highlight the entire article! Only highlight portions that will help you!

## Writing the Paper

The argumentative essay starts with an introduction. The introduction is the gateway into your paper, and it serves two roles. The introduction should **grab your reader's attention** and let him or her know what your paper will be about. Your **thesis** must also let your reader know what your essay will be about. By the time he or she finishes the first portion, the reader should know **what you intend to write about, what you think of that subject, and what specific statement you intend to prove.**

The body is where you stop talking about what you're going to do in your essay and start

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actually doing it. In other words, the body is where you actually prove the assertion you made at the end of your introduction. Because the body is meant to do the heavy work of your essay, proving the point which you want to make, the language in your body will most likely be less engaging and more basic than the language in your introduction. Because the job of the body is to prove the thesis, it is both the easiest and the most dangerous part of your essay to write. It's easy because the body is the part of the essay where the words probably come to you easiest, but proving the thesis often turns out to be easier said than done.

## Possible Argumentative Essay Topics

This is not a conclusive list; its function is to help you think of what you might want to do. While not all statements are in the form of a question, you can use the stem to pick a side. You will need instructor approval to begin working on your research.

1. What can we do to help with domestic violence?
2. Is the Internet dangerous?
3. Should animals be used for scientific research?
4. Should all public smoking be banned?
5. Should drivers not be permitted to use cell phones?
6. Should restrictions be placed on the use of cell phones in locations such as restaurants and theaters?
7. Death penalty should be abolished.
8. The "right to die" is not murder.
9. Should the rain forests destruction be prohibited?
10. Should there be unisex classes instead of mixed classes?
11. Should sex education increase in public schools to curb problems such as teen pregnancy, abortion, or STD?
12. All people should become vegetarians for their health and for the welfare of animals.
13. Students in America are not grateful for their education and take it very lightly.
14. Assisted suicide is not a crime.
15. Animals have rights.
16. Do we need prisons, or is there a better way to control crime?
17. Should the death penalty be mandatory for all murderers, or just for those who manage to kill people even when staying in a prison?
18. Is plastic surgeries a way to become more beautiful, or just someone's unhealthy idea?
19. Was the "sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll" era significant, or not?
20. Prove that blondes are actually smart.
21. Dieting is an obsession, and many who diet do not succeed.
22. Support or don't support President Obama's political stand on one issue.
23. Is global climate change man-made?
24. Is our election process fair?
25. Is torture ever acceptable?
26. Should men get paternity leave from work?
27. Is a lottery a good idea?
28. Do curfews keep teens out of trouble?
29. Are law enforcement cameras an invasion of privacy?
30. Is child behavior better or worse than it was years ago?
31. Do violent video games cause behavior problems?
32. Are beauty pageants exploitive?
33. When should parents let teens make their own decisions?
34. Does age matter in relationships?
35. What age is appropriate for dating?

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- 36. Does boredom lead to trouble?
- 37. Does religion cause war?
- 38. What should be done about girls being mean to one another?
- 39. What should be done about bullying?
- 40. Is homework harmful or helpful? What are the limits involved?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Topic statement \_\_\_\_\_

Brainstorming or initial thoughts about your topic: