

Name _____

Period _____

Argumentative Essay - Outline

Your essay will have an introduction paragraph that includes your thesis/theme statement, three body paragraphs supporting your thesis statement with textual evidence and analysis, and a conclusion paragraph that wraps it up. Use this sheet to plan your essay and organize your ideas.

Paragraph #1 – Introduction – Note: there is flexibility in how you order this paragraph.

Hook – How will you draw the reader in? A broad statement? Question? Something interesting?

Thesis statement – What is the main claim you are making? (Include title/author if applicable.)

Forecast – What are two ways you will defend your claim and one argument from the opposing side that you will rebut? (These are your subtopics.)

Closing sentence – Wrap up the introduction and transition smoothly to the first subtopic.

Five parts of a literary analysis paragraph (may or may not apply to argumentative essays)

- Topic sentence – This should state your claim (argument, opinion, idea). In a five-paragraph essay, this is one of your three subtopics.
- Context - Connect your argument to the evidence you will present. Do not just put a quote down. Lead into the evidence by introducing the speaker or character and his or her connection to the text. State the character's location or the overall situation occurring at the time the quote takes place.
- Evidence – Provide at least two pieces of evidence. One must be a direct quotation; the other can either be a direct or indirect quotation. You can quote from dialogue or narration. Include the page number and write it at the end of the direct quotation, "like this" (3). The page number goes at the end of an indirect quotation like this (5).
- Analysis – This is the most important part, your chance to show off your brilliant thinking! After you have provided the evidence/quotation, spend multiple sentences explaining how the quote supports your argument. Dissect the quote, interpret what is happening, apply it to other areas of the book, and/or explain its significance.
- Closing sentence – This should complete the paragraph by connecting to your topic sentence. Do not restate the topic sentence. Include a transition to the next paragraph if applicable.

Paragraph #2 – First subtopic

Topic sentence – Tell what your first subtopic is.

Context – Connect your argument to the evidence you will present. Set up the evidence.

Evidence – Two things illustrating your point. At least one should be a quotation. Include page #.

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Analysis – Explain how the evidence supports your argument, using original thought and insight.

Closing sentence – Wrap up this thought and transition smoothly to the next one.

Paragraph #3 – Second subtopic

Topic sentence – Tell what your second subtopic is.

Context – Connect your argument to the evidence you will present. Set up the evidence.

Evidence – Two things illustrating your point. At least one should be a quotation. Include page #.

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Analysis – Explain how the evidence supports your argument, using original thought and insight.

Closing sentence – Wrap up this thought and transition smoothly to the next one.

Paragraph #4 – Rebuttal – acknowledge the counter-argument, and then address it.

Topic sentence – Begin this paragraph by raising the opposing side of the argument.

Context – Connect your counter-argument to the evidence you will present. Set up the citation.

Evidence – Two things illustrating your point. Consider having one that supports the opposing argument and one that supports your rebuttal. At least one should be a quotation. Include page #.

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Analysis – Explain how the evidence supports your argument, using original thought and insight.

Closing sentence – Wrap up this thought and transition smoothly to the conclusion.

Paragraph #5 – Conclusion – Note: there is flexibility in how you order this paragraph.

Topic sentence – Emphasize and intensify your thesis statement, using different words.

Summary – Restate your three subtopics, using different words.

Closing sentence – Connect to your opening hook if possible. Conclude with a call to action.

