

Argumentative Writing Notes

What is an Argumentative Essay?

- Uses _____ and _____ to defend a position or point of view
- _____, _____, and _____ are used to convince the reader to consider a different point of view
- A strong argumentative essay acknowledges the _____ viewpoint.
 - This is called the _____
 - The counterargument is disputed with _____ to convince the reader to support the writer's initial claim

Vocabulary:

- **Argument** → an attempt to _____ someone to consider a different point of view
 - *Ex: taking a stand for or against electric cars*
- **Thesis/Claim** → position taken by the writer; what the writer is trying to _____
 - *Ex: all vehicles should be electric*
- **Reason** → statement provided to _____ the thesis/claim
 - *Ex: electric vehicles are better for the environment*
- **Evidence** → _____ used to support or prove a reason
 - Statistics, quotes, facts, etc
 - *Ex: according to the Environmental Protection Agency, electric vehicles emit less greenhouse gasses than gas-powered vehicles (EPA 2022)*
- **Counter-argument** → _____ position; counterclaim
 - *Ex: all vehicles should not be electric because electric cars cannot be driven long distances without charging*
- **Rebuttal** → reason that _____ the counter-argument
 - *Ex: this is not the case because many electric cars can drive long distances without charging*

Introduction:

- What does it need?
 - An _____ statement about the topic
 - _____ information about the topic
 - _____ with reasons
 - *Ex: Electric cars were invented more than 100 years ago! Battery-powered electric vehicles were on the roads in the late 1800's. Eventually, electric and gas-powered cars replaced horses for personal transportation. Today, all vehicles should be electric-powered because electric cars are better for the environment and they cost less to fuel.*

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Body Paragraph #1:

- Start with a _____ word or phrase
- State your reason #1 to support your _____
- Discuss _____ to support your reason #1 (with _____)
- Explanation or example to show what your evidence _____
- *Ex: First, all cars should be electric because they are better for the environment. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, electric cars emit less greenhouse gasses than gas-powered cars (EPA 2022). This shows that electric cars are better for the environment because greenhouse gasses can lead to an unnatural warming of the Earth.*

Body Paragraph #2:

- Start with a _____ word or phrase
- State your reason #2 to support your _____
- Discuss _____ to support your reason #1 (with _____)
- Explanation or example to show what your evidence _____
- *Ex: Next, all cars should be electric because they cost less to fuel than gas-powered cars. A 2020 Consumer Reports study found that electric vehicle owners spent 60% less for fuel than gas-powered vehicle owners (Lindwall 2022). In other words, owning an electric vehicle allows people to save money they would normally spend on gas.*

Body Paragraph #3:

- Start with a _____
- State your _____ to the counterargument
- Discuss _____ to support your rebuttal (with _____)
- Explanation or example to show what your evidence _____
- *Ex: Some people believe that all cars should not be electric because electric cars cannot drive long distances. This is not the case because many electric cars can travel long distances without charging. For example, Tesla's Model S can drive approximately 370 miles without stopping for a charge (Siddiqui 2020). This means it is possible to drive long distances in an electric car without the need to stop and recharge.*

Conclusion:

- Start with a _____ word or phrase
- Restate your _____ (argument) from your introduction paragraph
- _____ your reasons that support your thesis
- End with a _____ about your topic
- *Ex: In conclusion, all cars should be electric. Electric cars are better for the environment and they cost less to fuel. When it is time to purchase a car, an electric vehicle is clearly the better choice.*

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Transition Words and Phrases:

- Reason #1 →
- Reason #2 →
- Evidence →
- Examples & Explanations →
- Counterargument →
- Rebuttal →
- Conclusion →