

Argumentative Essay Checklist

Paragraph 1: Introduction (minimum of five sentences)

- _____ Hook! (More than just a question...it must really make the reader interested in your essay.)
- _____ Three reasons...each reason must be a separate sentence for emphasis!
- _____ Strong Thesis! I should "hear" how strongly you feel about this subject.

Paragraph 2: Body – Reason 1

- _____ Restate reason 1 above as a topic sentence. Everything else in this paragraph must be details relating to this topic sentence.
- _____ Give at least 3 pieces of evidence to support your argument of reason #1 (Each should be its own separate sentence!) The more you have, the stronger your argument...unless you're being repetitive!
- _____ DO NOT end with "These are reasons why....." or "That's why..."

Paragraph 3: Body – Reason 2

- _____ Restate reason 2 above as a topic sentence. Everything else in this paragraph must be details relating to this topic sentence.
- _____ Give at least 3 pieces of evidence to support your argument of reason #2 (Each should be its own separate sentence!) The more you have, the stronger your argument...unless you're being repetitive!
- _____ DO NOT end with "These are reasons why....." or "That's why..."

Paragraph 4: Body – Reason 3

- _____ Restate reason 3 above as a topic sentence. Everything else in this paragraph must be details relating to this topic sentence.
- _____ Give at least 3 pieces of evidence to support your argument of reason #3 (Each should be its own separate sentence!) The more you have, the stronger your argument...unless you're being repetitive!
- _____ DO NOT end with "These are reasons why....." or "That's why..."

Paragraph 5: Counter Argument and Refutation (Counter Claim)

- _____ Address the “other side” or the viewpoint that disagrees with your claim
- _____ Refute this viewpoint (Tell why they are invalid or wrong based on evidence, data, facts, and logic.)
- _____ Use signal words such as: Others may believe that..., It can be argued that..., Some people might say..., On the other hand..., Another perspective is..., On the flip side..., One could argue that..., Opponents disagree because...
- _____ Other signal words that show a counter argument include: Admittedly, Assuredly, Certainly, Granted, No doubt, It is undeniable that, Obviously, Of course, To be sure, True, Undoubtedly, At this level, In general...

Paragraph 6: Conclusion (minimum of 6 sentences)

- _____ Restate your thesis in a creative way that makes your argument clear to the reader!
- _____ Restate your three reasons in separate sentences emphasizing their importance.
- _____ What will happen if...
- _____ Call to action! What should be done to fix the problem? What should someone do if he/she agrees with you?

TEMPLATES FOR COUNTERARGUMENT, CONCESSION AND RESPONSE

Here are some common phrases used to introduce these moves. Use them freely in your own work, and add to the list as you find others.

Counterarguments

[some person or group] claims/argues/suggests that...
_____’s argument implies that...
_____ interprets these results to mean that...
According to [someone], ...[claim about science]
Critics/supporters of _____ argue that...

Responses

However, ...
Yet...
But this interpretation is flawed/questionable...
Yet the bulk of studies on the subject suggest...
But what they fail to acknowledge is...

Concession

Of course, ...
I concede that...
It is true that...
It may well be that...
Have there been contrary findings? Yes, ...
While we acknowledge that ...
Critics of _____ are right that...
There are in fact published studies that suggest...
It is possible that...
The results could be interpreted to mean...

Response

But this does not mean...
Nevertheless, ...
However, it is also true that...
In spite of this ...
But...
we should not overlook the fact that...
but what they fail to recognize is...
Yet these results are contradicted by...
But it is more likely that...
But a more compelling interpretation is...