

ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAYS

An argumentative essay expresses a certain position on a subject and supports it with evidence. This generally requires a student to investigate a topic by collecting, generating, and evaluating evidence.

THESIS

- A declaration of what you believe and what you intend to prove
- A one-sentence statement within the first or second paragraph
- A clear, strong, and easy to find sentence

Example – *Complex psychological factors, which many are unaware of, play an important part in the behavior of bystanders; knowing about these factors can help people to act more responsibly when faced with emergencies.*

TOPIC SENTENCES

- Tie directly back to the thesis
- Act like mini-thesis statements for body paragraphs
- Are the first or second sentence of each paragraph
- Informs the reader of exactly what will be addressed

OPPOSING ARGUMENTS

- Anticipate, research, and outline common opposing views
- Help your readers understand both sides
- Be fair when presenting opposing views
- Present opposing arguments towards the end of the paper or after main points they oppose
- Concede or refute opposing points

Example – *Some may argue that violent video games simply allow an outlet for children's natural competitive instincts. This is true to an extent; competition can be a good thing. However, the level of violence in some video games goes far beyond healthy competition and instead encourages negative aggression.*

CONCLUSION

- Do not repeat the thesis word for word – restate the idea of the thesis
- Do not present new information
- Synthesize, or bring together in a meaningful way, the information presented
- If appropriate, include a call to action or a call for more research to be done on your topic