

Argumentative Essay Outline MLA Format

### **1. Header**

* Include your name, your instructor's name, the course, and the date in the upper left corner of the first page.

### **2. Title**

* Center the title of your essay just above the first paragraph.

### **3. Introduction**

* **Hook**: Start with an engaging statement, question, or quote to grab the reader’s attention.
* **Background Information**: Provide context to introduce the reader to your topic.
* **Thesis Statement**: Clearly state your argument or position in a single sentence.

### **4. Body Paragraphs**

* **Paragraph 1**:
	+ **Topic Sentence**: Introduce the main point supporting your thesis.
	+ **Evidence**: Provide quotations, data, or information from credible sources, cited in MLA format.
	+ **Explanation**: Explain how the evidence supports your thesis.
	+ **Concluding/Transition Sentence**: Conclude and transition to the next point.
* **Paragraph 2**:
	+ **Topic Sentence**: Outline the second point.
	+ **Evidence**: Provide more evidence, using proper MLA in-text citations.
	+ **Explanation**: Link the evidence back to your thesis.
	+ **Concluding/Transition Sentence**: Summarize and lead into the next paragraph.
* **Paragraph 3**:
	+ **Topic Sentence**: Introduce the third main point.
	+ **Evidence**: Again, provide evidence with in-text citations.
	+ **Explanation**: Discuss how this evidence reinforces your thesis.
	+ **Concluding Sentence**: Wrap up this point, linking back to your thesis.
* **Counterargument Paragraph** (optional):
	+ **Topic Sentence**: Present a counterargument.
	+ **Evidence and Explanation**: Give evidence supporting the counterargument, properly cited.
	+ **Rebuttal**: Refute the counterargument with evidence and explanation, showing why your argument is stronger.

### **5. Conclusion**

* **Restatement of Thesis**: Paraphrase your thesis statement, reminding the reader of your argument’s strength.
* **Summary of Main Points**: Briefly recap the main arguments you have made.
* **Closing Statement**: End with a strong statement or call to action that reinforces your thesis and leaves an impact.

### **6. Works Cited**

* Begin on a new page at the end of your essay.
* Title this page "Works Cited" and center the title at the top of the page.
* List all references in alphabetical order by the authors' last names.
* Use hanging indentations for each entry.
* Ensure each entry is formatted according to MLA guidelines.