

Argumentative Essay: How to Structure Your Paper

1. Paragraph 1: Hook and Introduction

- A. Open with a hook (anecdote, quote, thought, or observation) **(1-2 sentences)**
- B. Background Information (information that relates to the subject) **(3 sentences)**
- C. Claim/thesis statement (straightforward belief) **(1 sentence)**

2. Paragraph 2: Counterclaims/ Concessions and Refutations

- A. Topic sentence (Explain that other people may have a different belief) **(1 sent.)**
- B. Acknowledge their argument/reason (Why they might think this) **(1-2 sentences)**
- C. Reason proving they are wrong **(1 sentence)**
- D. Explanation for why they are wrong **(1-2 sentences)**
- E. Transition sentence **(1 sentence)**

3. Paragraph 3: First argument that supports your claim

- A. Topic sentence (Introduce your 1st argument) **(1 sentence)**
- B. Example/evidence (Cite your 1st piece of evidence) **(1 sentence)**
- C. Explanation of example/evidence (Explain your evidence) **(1-2 sentences)**
- D. Example /evidence (Cite your 2nd piece of evidence) **(1 sentence)**
- E. Explanation of example/evidence (Explain your evidence) **(1-2 sentences)**
- F. Transition sentence **(1 sentence)**

4. Paragraph 4: Second argument that supports your claim

- A. Topic sentence (Introduce your 2nd argument) **(1 sentence)**
- B. Example/evidence (Cite your 1st piece of evidence) **(1 sentence)**
- C. Explanation of example/evidence (Explain your evidence) **(1-2 sentences)**
- D. Example /evidence (Cite your 2nd piece of evidence) **(1 sentence)**
- E. Explanation of example/evidence (Explain your evidence) **(1-2 sentences)**
- F. Transition sentence **(1 sentence)**

5. Paragraph 5: Conclusion/Call to Action

- A. Restate your claim/thesis statement **(1 sentence)**
- B. Final thoughts (Last time to convince people that your point is valid) **(3 sentences)**
- C. Call to action (What do you want your reader to do as a result of your argument?) **(1 sentence)**