

# Argumentative Writing



# Definition of terms

**Argue(v)** : to persuade someone to do or to not do something; to give the reasons for your opinion, ideas, beliefs, etc.

**Argumentative (adj.):** someone who is argumentative often argues or likes arguing.

**Argument (n):** a set of reasons which show that something is true/untrue, right or wrong etc.

- ❑ An argumentative essay tries to change the reader's mind by convincing the reader to agree with the writer's point of view.

It attempts to be highly persuasive and logical.



# Argumentative Essays requires us to look at the following:

- ▶ Advantages and Disadvantages
- ▶ Expressing opinions/providing solutions to problems
- ▶ Expressing arguments for or against a topic
- ▶ Compare/contrast something or somebody



# Organization of an Argumentative Essay

## ▶ Introduction

The first paragraph is the introductory paragraph. It presents the problem and gives the background information necessary for the argument and the thesis statement.

*Thesis statement (n)*

*a short statement (usually one sentence) that summarizes the main point or claim of an essay, research paper, etc.*


# Sample Introduction

- ▶ *“All students in public schools should wear uniforms”*. Do you agree?

School uniforms are the compulsory garments worn by students. They can be in different styles and colours. Over the years, wearing school uniforms have been the rule in many schools. Some people are opposed to the use of school uniforms. However, uniforms play an important role in the education system. The use of uniforms should continue because it saves money, it gives one a sense of belonging and it encourages equality among students.

Topic	Bad Thesis	Good Thesis
<p><i>The use of illegal drugs causes more harm than good in society.</i> (Support topic)</p>	<p>Drug use is detrimental to society.</p>	<p>Illegal drug use is detrimental because it causes gang violence, disrupts family life and is linked to health problems.</p>
<p><i>Global warming is only the natural cycles of the earth and not a threat.</i> (Refute topic)</p>	<p>Global warming is a serious issue.</p>	<p>Global warming is a highly serious issue because it is a threat to the environment, animals and people.</p>
<p><i>Physical education should be compulsory in all schools.</i> (Support topic)</p>	<p>Physical education is important for all schools.</p>	<p>Physical education should be compulsory because it introduces students to different types of sports and teaches them about living healthy and happy.</p>


# Body of Essay

- ▶ The body paragraphs contain the reasons/points of your argument.
  - ▶ Each paragraph talks about one reason. The reason is stated in the topic sentence and is supported by supporting details or materials.
  - ▶ These supporting materials can be either *examples, statistics, personal experiences, or quotations.*
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# Sample Paragraph


School uniforms would help make all the students feel equal. People's standards of living differ greatly, and some people are well-off while others are not. People sometimes forget that school is a place to get education, not to promote a "fashion show." Implementing mandatory school uniforms would make all the students look the same regardless of their financial status. School uniforms would promote pride and help to raise the self-esteem of students who cannot afford to wear stylish clothing.



# Conclusion

- ▶ The conclusion restates the main claim (thesis).
  - ▶ It presents 2 or 3 general statements which summarize the arguments you have made in the body of your essay.
  - ▶ Do not write any new points in your introduction.
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# Sample Conclusion

- ▶ In conclusion, there are many benefits to implementing mandatory school uniforms for students. The use of uniforms should not be stopped because students learn better and act more responsibly by abiding to dress-codes. Public schools should require uniforms in order to benefit both the students and society as a whole.
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# Before you start your argumentative essay:

- ▶ First, you need to understand the question.
  - What do you have to do?
  - What issues do you need to cover?
  - What do you know about this issue? Make a list of points
  - decide if you are arguing for/against the statement.
- Next, you should have a draft of your essay. It would guide you as you begin to write
- Your writing should be more factual rather than emotional

# Topics

- ▶ *“Students are given too much homework.”*
  - ▶ *“Laptops should be banned from the classroom.”*
  - ▶ *“Country life is better than city life”*
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