

# ARGUMENTATIVE SAMPLE

There are many ways to write an argumentative paper. Below is a basic outline sample. An argument is a line of reasoning intended to persuade the reader/listener to agree with a particular viewpoint or take a particular action.

## I. Introductory Paragraph

The introductory paragraph sets the stage for the position you are arguing.

### 1. *Your thesis:*

- States what your position on an issue is.
- Be clearly stated and written in confidence.
- Your introduction should end with a thesis statement.

## II. Body of Argument

### 1. *Background Information*

- Provides the reader basic information he/she needs to understand your position.
- This could also be part of the introduction instead of in the body.

### 2. *Evidence (Reasons) to Support your Claim*

- Any reasons you present in this section should support your position.
- Generally, begin with a general statement that you back up with details or examples.
- Depending on how long your argument is, you will need to devote one to two well-developed paragraphs to each reason/claim or type of evidence.

*Types of evidence may include:*

- First-hand, specific examples and experiential knowledge on your topic.
- Opinions from recognized authorities such as academic articles.

## III. Addressing the Opposite Side

- Provide any positions in opposition to your argument.
- Point out what your opposition is likely to say in response to your argument.
- This paragraph can be organized towards the beginning or end of your paper.

## IV. Conclusion

- The conclusion should bring the essay to a logical end.
- It should explain what the importance of your issue is in a larger context.
- Your conclusion should also reiterate why your topic is worth caring about.
- Point out what will happen if your argument is or is not believed.