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.