

## Suggested Argumentative Essay Format

### Intro paragraph:

The introduction will start out with an attention-getter (or “**hook**”); this should be an interesting fact about the topic, a probing question for the audience, or a quote from an authoritative source about the topic. This will be followed by a **general overview of the topic**, generally spanning three to four sentences. The final sentence of the introduction will be the **thesis statement**. It is imperative that the writer must provide a stance in this statement along with reasons that support this stance.

### Body Paragraphs:

The next two paragraphs are the support body paragraphs. Each of these paragraphs will start with a **topic sentence**; the topic of these paragraphs must support the thesis statement. Within the paragraph, the student should have **arguments and examples** that support the topic of each paragraph. The arguments and examples must be accompanied by **explanation and reasoning**. Students must display the connection of these ideas and arguments to the thesis.

The next body paragraph, the fourth overall, is very important for an argumentative essay. The writer will state the **opposing side of the argument** in this particular paragraph, followed by an explanation of this opposing side. However, the writer should not stop there. The **counter argument** must be followed by a **rebuttal**, or a reason why the counter argument is ineffective or wrong. This will further strengthen the initial position of the writer and give more credibility to the stance that the writer has chosen by showing that they have considered opposing viewpoints.

### Conclusion

Finally, the writer must provide a conclusion in the final paragraph. The conclusion will start with a **restatement of the thesis statement** and will continue with a **restatement of some of the main points** brought up in support of the thesis (from the body paragraphs). This will be followed by an **explanation of the significance of the topic** and how it affects, or can affect, the reader and/or society. The conclusion will end with a **call to action**. This call to action will hopefully inspire people to do something that shows support of the original stance of the writer (a change in thought or action).