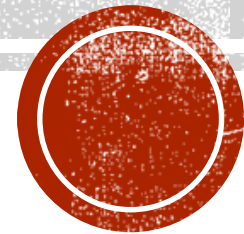


# ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

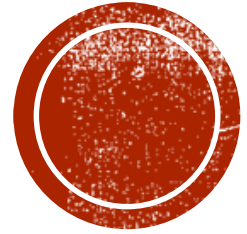
Winter 2018



# WHAT IS AN ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY?

- The argumentative essay is a genre of writing that requires you to **investigate** a **topic**; collect, generate, and evaluate evidence; and **establish a position** on the topic in concise manner.
- Argumentative essay assignments generally call for extensive research of literature or previously published material.
- Argumentative assignments may also require empirical research where the student collects data through interviews, surveys, observations, or experiments.
- Detailed research allows the student to learn about the topic and to understand **different points of view** regarding the topic so that she/he may choose a position and **support** it with the **evidence** collected during research.
- Regardless of the amount or type of research involved, argumentative essays must establish a **clear thesis** and follow **sound reasoning**.





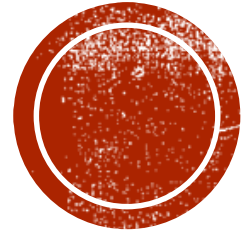
“IT’S NOT ENOUGH TO  
QUESTION  
AUTHORITY; YOU  
HAVE TO **SPEAK WITH  
IT TOO.**” TAYLOR MALI

## LET'S SEE WHERE YOU STAND:

- For these three topics, I want you to write just one sentence stating whether you agree or disagree along with one reason why.

1. Should schools stop buying textbooks, and instead, spend their funds on electronic sources and educational tools?
2. Should the sale of energy drinks, such as Monster and Red Bull, be prohibited to people under age 18?
3. Should colleges stop using standardized tests such as the S.A.T. and A.C.T. , as part of their admissions process?





THE HARDEST PART—  
FIGURING OUT WHERE  
YOU STAND. NOW YOU  
HAVE TO **PROVE THAT**  
**YOU ARE RIGHT.**

THE STRUCTURE OF THE  
ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY IS HELD  
TOGETHER BY THE FOLLOWING:

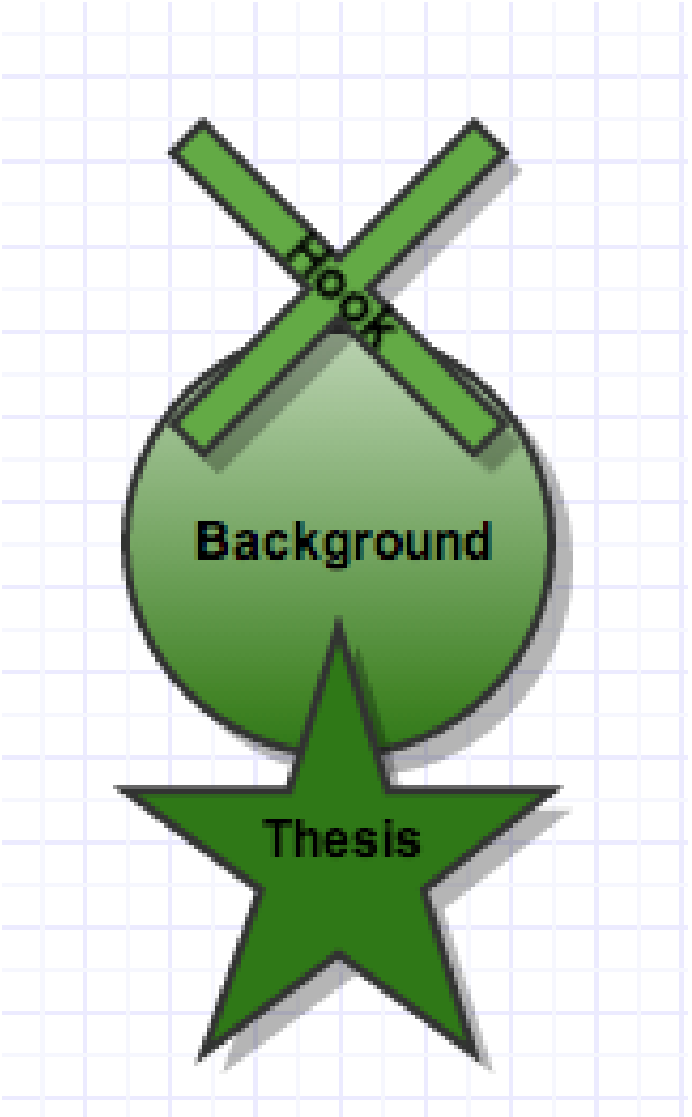
- Claim
- Reasons
- Evidence
- Counterclaim



# INTRODUCTION: CLAIM—THESIS

- Your first sentence is comprised of a “hook.”
- A hook is a sentence that **grabs your readers attention.**
- You need a clear, concise, and defined claim or **thesis** statement that occurs in the **first** paragraph of the essay.
  - Your **stance** on an issue
  - Needs to be **bold**
  - Needs to be something two reasonable people could have an argument about.
- In the first paragraph set the **context** by **reviewing** the topic in a general way.
- Next explain why the topic is **important** or why readers should care about the issue.
- Lastly, you should present the **thesis** statement.







# BODY PARAGRAPHS

## Reasons

- The main idea or point that led you to your claim
- Each paragraph in the body of the essay must have some **logical** connection to the thesis statement.
- Some paragraphs will directly support the thesis statement with evidence collected during research. It is also important to explain **how** and **why** the evidence **supports** the **thesis** (warrant).

## Evidence

- **Facts** that support your claim
- Research and cite reliable sources.
- Be sure to **explain** to your reader how the evidence **proves your point**.
- It is not enough to just list interesting data and facts.
- You **connect** the **evidence** to your **claim** with solid argumentation and voice.



**Claim 1**

**Evidence  
1a, 1b, 1c**

**Claim 2**

**Evidence  
2a, 2b, 2c**

**Claim 3**

**Evidence  
3a, 3b, 3c**

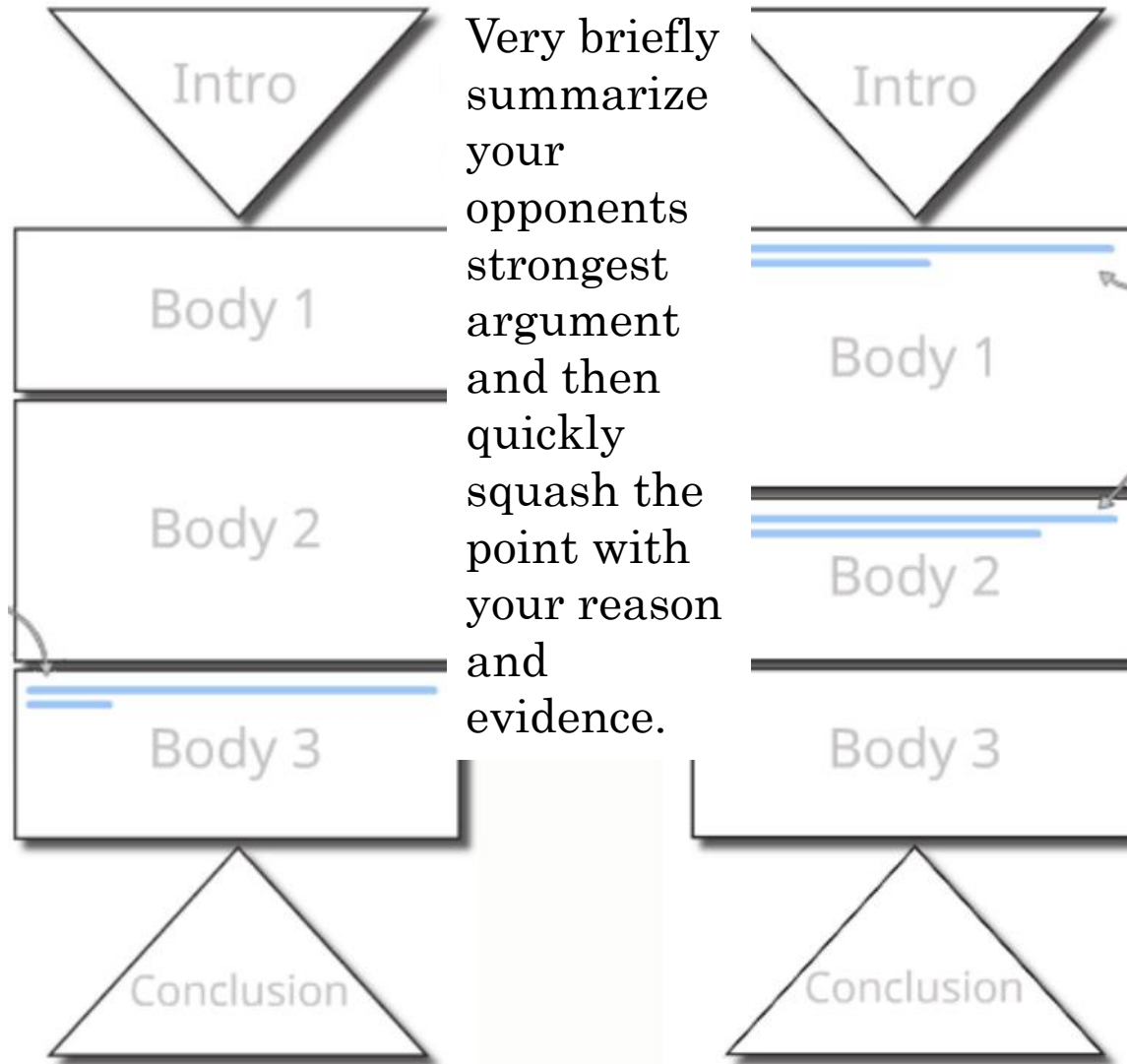


# COUNTERCLAIM

- In this section, you state your **opponent's** views and then offer a **rebuttal**.
- Consider and explain differing points of view.
- Dictate **one** to **two** paragraphs of an argument essay to discussing the conflicting opinion.
- Counterclaim should be no longer than **two sentences**.



## Two counterclaim approaches that work:



In one approach, save the counterclaim until you begin the third paragraph. Open by acknowledging your opponent's strongest counterclaim to your argument and then quickly turn the tables to prove why they are wrong.

In another approach, use the one or two best counterclaim arguments to begin your first and/or second body paragraphs. Again, keep these sentences brief and then quickly pounce on your opponent's point by using clear reasons and strong evidence to prove that you are right.



# CONCLUSION

- A conclusion does not simply restate the thesis, but **readdress** it in light of the **evidenced provided**.
- This is the portion of the essay that will leave the most immediate impression on the mind of the reader. Therefore, it must be **effective** and **logical**.
- Do not introduce any new information into the conclusion; rather, synthesize the information presented in the body of the essay.
- Restate **why** the **topic** is **important**, review the main points, and **review** your **thesis**.
- Paint a picture of the world if your argument is (or is not) implemented.

