Argumentative Essay

Writing an argumentative essay can sometimes be confusing because you don’t necessarily know how to write a convincing argument. If you’re new to writing argumentative essays, there are a few key factors that you can learn that can help you write a better argumentative essay. Argumentative essays are where you try and convince your reader to take a specific stance on a topic. This can range from politics, debates, news, and many other topics.

A persuasive, argumentative essay will use credible sources to find facts, information, and statistics that help support that specific stance. If you load your essay full of credible sources, you’re only further going to convince your audience that taking your stance is the best stance. To write an excellent argumentative essay, there are four major parts of the essay you’re going to need to be aware of.

**What is an Argumentative Essay?**

In an argumentative essay, you’re going to want to convince your audience to agree with your idea or opinion by using credible information. Writing an argument essay can help you better understand how to present an argument and how to persuade your readers to be on your side. Learning how to write an argumentative essay can help you in many other aspects of life, so make sure you pay close attention to what you’ll need for a convincing argument. You first need to select a solid topic with an argument, credible information to support your viewpoint, a solid stance on your side, and an excellent counter-argument to help you sound less biased.

**Argument**

Argumentative essays should use a topic in which you can persuade an audience to agree with your side. If you’re a student, consider using a topic that is interesting to other students or your professor. Many argumentative topics come from politics, the news, or ethics. Don’t choose a topic that you can’t write a two-sided story on. Every argumentative argument should include either two or more sides. The easier arguments use at least two arguments and no more than three or four arguments at once. The more stances an argument has, the harder it will be to convince your readers that your stance is the best stance. Our examples of argumentative essay can help you understand what topics are appropriate.

**Your Stance**

Every argumentative essay includes persuading an audience into believing one side of an argument. You need to make sure that you stay on that one side during your entire essay. It may be tempting to agree with the opposing side, but that will only cause your audience to be less convinced about your stance. The whole point of an argumentative essay is to persuade the reader into agreeing with the side you support. Therefore, you need to use research to back up your viewpoint consistently. The only thing you need to keep an eye out for is sticking with one side of an argument that doesn’t have enough credible information to help back up your claims. Check out our argumentative essay example to properly understand how to stay on one side of an argument.

**Evidence**

Your essay should include recent statistics and information from reliable sources. You can include this evidence through direct quotes or by paraphrasing (the best essays incorporate both), but either way the information must be cited to avoid plagiarism. Many students make the mistake of including personal viewpoints and opinions in their essays. This only weakens your argument and drives your readers away from your stance. To avoid this situation, only use information that you know is from a reliable source. Always double check your facts and make sure that they are the most recent. Using too old of facts may cause your argument to weaken.

**Reasoning**

It is not just enough to include evidence from reliable sources. You must explain to your readers how said evidence supports your claim. Do not assume that your reader will automatically know this. This is probably the most difficult aspect of an argumentative essay, which is why it’s often the aspect that gets left out. Without reasoning, your argumentative essay is incomplete.

**Counter Argument**

Another final component is being able to draw out the pros and cons of the opposition and disprove their argument. In this area of your paper, you can agree with your opponent temporarily to exploit any reasoning that does not work in their favor. This also shows you’ve taken into consideration the opponents views and examined the possible outcomes. By embodying both sides of the argument, you further solidify your position and make it seem like there is another ultimate conclusion.

**Conclusion**

A conclusion can be included in the counter-argument, but it is better to allocate two separate paragraphs for them. A sound finale will have your essay summarize quickly and powerfully. Appealing to emotion, using statistics and facts will help refresh your reader’s memory and convince them to take up your position. The last few sentences should be extremely clear and have a lasting image on your audience. Always make sure that you end your paper reinstating your side of the argument and why people should join.

**Remember…**

An excellent argument will use credible sources that help back up its claim. Always fact checks your argument and avoids using or making false or fake claims just to make your argument seem like the better side. Good argumentative essays not only provide facts to support the body of the argument and support your viewpoint but also use facts to help refute the opposing side of the argument. This can help convince your reader to stick with your side over the other. Choose from popular topics that people are passionate about. Never choose a topic that lacks research or evidence, as this leads to a weak argument overall. Hopefully, our argumentative essay example helped demonstrate how to write an argumentative essay.