

Argumentative Essay Outline Guide

Use the following outline to plan and write your essays. Your evidence will be based on your own relevant knowledge. What are the historical facts that support your “case”?

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Brief background information on the topic or question (date, place, historical context, situation surrounding the issue or question)
- B. Thesis and roadmap of what the essay will be about – Answer the question directly in your thesis statement and clearly state the reasons/factors/issues that will prove your argument.

II. BODY PARAGRAPH #1

- A. Sub-Thesis #1:
 - a. The first reason/factor/issue that you provided in your thesis statement
- B. Evidence
 - a. Refer to specific historical facts, examples, events, or situations that support Sub-Thesis #1
 - i. Provide 2-3 pieces of evidence
 - ii. For each piece of evidence, explain how it relates to your sub-thesis
- C. Argument
 - a. Explanation of why Sub-Thesis #1 is one factor that answers that question
 - b. Connect your evidence back to your original thesis

III. BODY PARAGRAPH #2

- A. Sub-Thesis #2:
 - a. The second reason/ factor/issue that you provided in your thesis statement
- B. Evidence
 - a. Refer to specific historical facts, examples, events, or situations that support Sub-Thesis #2
 - i. Provide 2-3 pieces of evidence
 - ii. For each piece of evidence, explain how it relates to your sub-thesis
- C. Argument
 - a. Explanation of why Sub-Thesis #2 is one factor that answers that question
 - b. Connect your evidence back to your original thesis

IV. BODY PARAGRAPH #3

- A. Sub-Thesis #3:

a. The third reason/factor/issue that you provided in your thesis statement
B. Evidence

- a. Refer to specific historical facts, examples, events, or situations that support Sub-Thesis #3
 - i. Provide 2-3 pieces of evidence
 - ii. For each piece of evidence, explain how it relates to your sub-thesis

C. Argument

- a. Explanation of why Sub-Thesis #3 is one factor that answers that question
- b. Connect your evidence back to your original thesis

V. EVALUATE YOUR ARGUMENT

- A. To critically evaluate your claims, discuss at least one of the following:
 - a. Present a counter-claim and rebuttal
 - b. Discuss the historiography of the issue and evaluate multiple historians' perspectives
 - c. Make a judgment on the evidence – Is it sound evidence? Is the historical record incomplete or unreliable?
 - d. Discuss the significance of this historical debate

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. Restatement of your thesis
 - a. This is not an exact duplication of your thesis but a restatement (in differing words) of your thesis statement
- B. Summarize the key idea of your argument(s)