

Instructions: please write a 5-paragraph **argumentative essay** on a topic of your choice. It should be comprised of your opinions only, not research. (Research involves the opinions of others.) It should be an opinion piece, not a report, as well. It should be 1-2 pages in length. An argumentative essay's introductory paragraph should contain 1) a *thesis sentence* (your opinion) and 2) a *preview sentence* (list of arguments that support your opinion, in order). Each body paragraph should develop one supporting argument fully. This is where your most important writing should occur.

OUTLINE

1. Introductory Paragraph

- A) Thesis Sentence (Your Opinion)
- B) Preview Sentence (List of Your Supporting Arguments, in Order)

2. Body Paragraph 1

Supporting Argument 1 (Fully Developed)

3. Body Paragraph 2

Supporting Argument 2 (Fully Developed)

4. Body Paragraph 3

Supporting Argument 3 (Fully Developed)

5. Concluding Paragraph/Summary

- A) Thesis Sentence (Rephrased)
- B) Preview Sentence (Rephrased)

HELPFUL TIPS:

- **THESIS:** Narrow down your thesis to one *clear* topic. It should not be ambiguous. A short thesis sentence can communicate your thesis more clearly than a long thesis sentence. Do not make your thesis a question. State your opinion confidently in order to reassure the reader.
- **SUPPORTING ARGUMENTS:** Make your supporting arguments cohesive (so they are similar to each other and fit together). For example, 2 supporting arguments that describe problems and 1 supporting argument that describes a solution are not cohesive. They are different. Try to support your opinion with 3 supporting arguments that are *all* problems or 3 supporting arguments that are *all* solutions. This gives your argument clear logic.
- **CLARITY:** Students are graded *only* on the clarity of their writing, not their subject matter, so a complicated topic doesn't earn you extra points. Simple topics are easy to write about. Complicated topics are hard to write about.

STUDENTS WILL BE GRADED ON THE FOLLOWING:

- A clear, focused thesis (no questions)
- A preview sentence that lists all the supporting arguments in the essay *in order* (rewrite this last so it matches your essay's 3 body paragraphs)
- Fully developed supporting arguments (in your 3 body paragraphs)
- Correct sentences (no run-ons, fragments, or comma splice sentences)
- Proper English grammar, punctuation, usage, agreement, spelling, *etc.*
- Proper MLA Format: Times New Roman font, 12 point size, double-spaced, 1 inch margins

GOOD EXAMPLE

1. Introductory Paragraph

- A) Chicago is a great city.
- B) It has great restaurants, great entertainment, and great architecture.

2. Body Paragraph 1

Great restaurants (fully developed)

3. Body Paragraph 2

Great entertainment. . . . (fully developed)

4. Body Paragraph 3

Great architecture (fully developed)

5. Concluding Paragraph/Summary (Rephrased Thesis and Preview Sentence)

- A) Chicago is my favorite city.
- B) It has world-class restaurants, entertainment, and architecture.

BAD EXAMPLE

1. Introductory Paragraph

- A) Has feminism has gone too far?
- B) Women's rights have been ignored for too long; however, some progress has been made in the last ten years.

2. Body Paragraph 1

Some women are getting equal pay (pro-feminism)

3. Body Paragraph 2

Some women are getting promotions (pro-feminism)

4. Body Paragraph 3

There's nothing wrong with being a stay-at-home mom (anti-feminism)

5. Concluding Paragraph/Summary (Rephrased Thesis and Preview Sentence)

- A) Society is changing fast.
- B) Some men accept it and some men don't.