**ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY**

*The argumentative essay is a very useful test of a student’s ability to think logically****.***

**Argue: v. 1.** to **persuade** someone to do or not do something.

**2.** to **give the reasons for your opinion, idea, belief**, etc.

**Argumentative: adj.** someone who is argumentative often argues or like arguing.

**Argument: n.**  a set of reasons that show that something is true or untrue, right or wrong etc.

When you have an opinion and try to **convince your listener or reader to accept your opinion, you are agreeing with or disagreeing with something.** For example: In an everyday situation, you may try to **convince** a friend to go somewhere or in a composition or speech class, the instructor may make an assignment in which you must **support or oppose the use of nuclear energy to produce electricity**. If you **agree or disagree** on an issue, you will want your reader or listener to accept your point of view.

**There are a few types of argumentative compositions such as:**

1. ***Advantages and disadvantages***
2. *Expressing opinions/providing* ***solutions to problems***
3. *Expressing arguments* ***for and against*** *a topic*
4. *Compare and contrast something or somebody*

**PURPOSE of ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAYS**

\* An argument follows when **two groups disagree** about something.

\* People can have different opinions and can offer reasons in support of their arguments. However, sometimes it **might be difficult to convince the other group** because the argument could be based on a matter of **preference, or religious faith.**

**\*** Therefore**, arguments of preference, belief or faith are NOT the type of arguments.** The kind of argument that can be argued logically is one based on an opinion that can be supported by **evidence** such as **facts**.

\* An argumentative essay is also one that attempts/tries to **change the reader’s mind**, **to convince the reader to agree with the point of view of the writer**.

\* For that reason, the argumentative essay attempts to be **highly persuasive and logical**. For example, a thesis such as “**My first experiences with Americans were shocking**” has a central idea ‘shocking’ but it is *not* really strongly persuasive, and it is certainly **not argumentative.**

\* When you write an argumentative essay, assume that the **reader disagrees** with you. But please remember that your reader ***is no less* intelligent than you**.

\* So, **write objectively, logically and respectfully**. Try to understand your opponent’s point of view. If you do not, you are not likely to convince the reader.

AS A RESULT:

* An important point to recall is that when writing to an argumentative essay, your reader **may not agree with** you.
* Writing to persuade is, therefore, more challenging and more imposing than many other types of writing.
* Your goal may be to change your readers' minds or move them to action.
* Your goal may be to sell a program, defend an idea, or disprove an opponent.
* In all these instances, you should consider writing to persuade as an important method for shaping your environment toward ***your*** vision of reality.

**Thesis Statement in Argumentative Essays**

* The argumentative thesis takes **a side of an issue**; frequently it proposes an approach of action which is often expressed with the modal ***should***).
* In the argument concerning the **nuclear power plant**, the thesis for a paper on this topic might be:

“Governments **should ban further construction**of nuclear power plants.”

* Someone else might argue:

“The U.S **should continue building**nuclear power plants.”

***PRACTICE 1: Thesis Statement***

Study the following thesis statements. Put “**A**” in the blank if the statement is **argumentative**. Be careful! A statement having “**should”** as part of the verb is not automatically argumentative.

1. \_\_The earthquake in Gölcük, Turkey, was one of the most destructive in history.
2. \_\_ Prospective\* parents should be required to get licenses in order to have children. (*Prospective*: future, expected
3. \_\_ The building codes in Las Vegas, Nevada, are inadequate\*. (I*nadequate:* not enough)
4. \_\_ Some of the Americans I have met are quite hospitable.
5. \_\_ Students should have a say in the hiring and firing of teachers.
6. \_\_ Pornographic books ought to be banned from the library.
7. \_\_ State University should not have a football team.
8. \_\_The citizens of this state should be allowed to carry guns.
9. \_\_ The United States ought to allow more immigrants into this country.

***PRACTICE 2:***  *Choose one opinion (a or b) from each of the following pairs of* ***thesis statements****.*

1. **a.** It is a good idea for students to work part time while they are going to school.

**b.** Students should not work while they are going o school.

1. **a.** Young people should continue to live with their parents after they finish their education.

**b.** Young people should not move away from home after they finish their education.

1. **a.** Wars are always wrong.

**b.** Wars are not always wrong.

1. **a.** Exams are not useful.

**b.** Exams do not check students’ knowledge.

* + **PLANNING/ORGANIZING THE ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY**

When you are **planning the argumentative essay,** be aware that the essay should contain the following characteristics:

1. The argumentative essay should **introduce and explain the issue or case**. The reader needs to understand what the issue is going to being argue.
2. The essay should **offer reasons and support** for those reasons. In other words, the essay should prove its point.
3. The essay should **refute opposing arguments**. (refute: to prove wrong by argument or to show that something is invalid/untrue/illogical)

* **ORGANIZATION of an ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY**

1. **Introduction.** You can **first introduce the problem** and give background information necessary for the argument and the thesis
2. **Reasons.** It is usually a good idea to spend one paragraph for each reason. Two or three reasons are typical.
3. **Refutation.** Depending on the points the writer wants to make, one or two paragraphs are typical.
4. **Conclusion**.
   * **OUTLINE of an ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY**

**Introduction**

**Introduction:** Background about the topic

**Thesis statement:** …..

**BODY**

1. **Pro(for/in support of) argument:** *(weakest* argument that supports your opinion)
2. **Pro(for/in support of) argument:** *(stronger* argument that supports your opinion)
3. **Pro(for/in support of) argument:** (*strongest* argument that supports your opinion)
4. **Con (against/negative):** (Counter/oppose arguments and your refutation)

**Conclusion**

Summary, solution, prediction, or recommendation

* **USEFUL TIPS for ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAYS**

**To write well developed paragraphs:**

* **Avoid strong feelings** (don’t say: nobody does this, or it is impossible to disagree with me)
* **Use generalizations** (e.g. people say/believe/consider)
* **Do not use generalization** (e.g. everybody believes that…..)
* **Do not use strong personal expressions** (e.g. I think)
* **Use linking words** (e.g. therefore, although, however etc.)
* **Use sequencing** (e.g. firstly, secondly, lastly)
* **Make reference to other sources** (e.g. The government claims that…)
* **Give examples – not personal thoughts** (e.g. products such as sprayer can destroy the environment)
* **Give up banal introductions**. **Write something more original** (Don’t write: This topic has been important since ancient times. When? Too vague = unclear)

**EXPRESSING ARGUMENTS FOR and AGAINST TOPIC**

When you are giving arguments for and against a topic you **should present both views in a fair way**. Discuss them in equal details and show no bias (=prejudice).

**OUTLINE:**

**Introduction:** Introduce the subject of the essay. *State why it is an important issue at the present time.*

**Main body:**

**Para. 1:**  Give the arguments **in favour of** the statement.

**Para. 2:**  Give the arguments ***against*** *t*he statement.

**Conclusion:** Conclude by giving a well-balanced consideration.

**USEFUL TIPS to WRITE an IN-CLASS PARAGRAPH / ESSA**

Many courses require that students write argumentative essays for in-class exams. Prepare for these by writing practice essays at home.

**Answering the question**

Read the question carefully. Make sure you write about the title you are given, not one you would have preferred!

**Plannıng**

To write a clear, well-argued opinion, which does not confuse the reader, it is essential to organize your thoughts before you start. Brainstorm as many ideas/arguments as you can in favor of your opinion on a scrap of paper. Remember you will need to say why you believe in these ideas, too. Then plan out your paragraphs.

**Gıving the other sıde of the argument**

You should mention opposing views, but only briefly and in a short, separate paragraph. Make sure your side of the argument stands out to your reader.

**opinion language**

Remember to use the opinion language

**TRANSITION WORDS**

Use the words you have practiced to list points in an argument.