

Argumentative Essay

Suggestions for pre-writing:

- Paraphrase the quote
- Come up with situations when this is true (consider one from the book, for other reading, or situations that you know about or experienced)
- Come up with situations when this is not true (consider one from the book, for other reading, or situations that you know about or experienced)

(One of the last two bullets will be your counter argument.)

Organization for Argumentative Essay:

Intro Paragraph:

Begin with style—attention-getter about the topic

Paraphrase the argument (claim), discuss importance of the claim, naming author(s),

*Distinguishing it from alternate or opposing claims

Thesis—your claim about the topic

Body Paragraphs (at least 2, if not 3):

Your reasons for your claim, recognizing counterclaims and/or flaws in the arguments made

Tie author's ideas to your points—pull in quotes

Your SPECIFIC Examples (Learned, Observed, Experienced) that support your claim

Explain HOW your example proves or disproves author's argument and supports yours

TRANSITIONS= end of one body reflects word of idea that will be brought up in next paragraph

*at some point in your body, you should address the opposition and refute it

Conclusion Paragraph:

Restate thesis and argument, mentioning author's name with strong OPINION emphasized

Summarize most important points in new words

Leave reader with a call to action or lasting impression persuading of your point

AP Argumentative Essay Tips

SHOW

- 1) Understand meaning of the passage
- 2) Defend, Challenge, Qualify
- 3) CONCRETE Examples
- 4) Maturity of perspective
- 5) Ability to self-reflect
- 6) Current events literacy
- 7) Sensitivity to historical writing
- 8) Concept of how language is used
- 9) Clear and logical support
- 10) Appropriate tone (Consistency)

Be sure to:

- Use quoted points by the author within your essay
- Give SPECIFIC evidence that supports your argument
- Explain HOW this evidence supports your point
- Use persuasive techniques like pathos and logos to support your point
- Use connotative diction to persuade your audience
- Use stylized syntax to make your points more emphatic