

Argumentative Essay

An argumentative essay requires a clear statement of your opinion, known as your **controlling idea**; *specific, detailed evidence* supporting each statement of opinion; and **responses** to *possible objections*, known as **counter-arguments**. This template will help you organize your notes.

Hook / Introduction

Controlling Idea / Statement of Opinion / Thesis Statement

Your Argument / Opinion / Point

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Supporting Evidence

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Counter-arguments / Objections

1a. _____
2b. _____
3c. _____

Your Responses

1a. _____
2b. _____
3c. _____

Conclusion / Call—to—Action

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Hook / Introduction

Your hook is often provided to you, in the form of a quote or other opinion-provoking statement that you need to either agree with or actively refute. Include the entire quote in your introduction! DO NOT assume your reader knows or has read the quote. If you are given two articles with information about the same subject, consider the statements in each article—and find one that is the most thought-provoking, and include it.

Controlling Idea / Statement of Opinion / Thesis Statement

Your controlling idea is your opinion. If you are responding to a quote, you have to have a firm opinion about it, but just like any **thesis statement**, you must also preview what you will be writing about—generally three points (Ps) - P1, P2, and P3) you will be making throughout your essay.

Your Argument / Opinion / Point

1. This is the P in your P.I.E.
Make your Point #1, here. Be as specific and detailed as possible.

2. This is P2. Make your Point #2, here. Be as specific and detailed as possible

3. This is P3. Make your Point #3, here. Be as specific and detailed as possible

Supporting Evidence

1. Now, support your P1 with I (Information)—a quote, fact, statistic, something you researched on the Internet—and then explain it (E).

2. Now, support your P2 with I (Information)—a quote, fact, statistic, something you researched on the Internet—and then explain it (E).

3. Now, support your P3 with I (Information)—a quote, fact, statistic, something you researched on the Internet—and then explain it (E).

Second Paragraph

Counter-arguments / Objections

1a. Here you introduce the first counter argument that opposes your P1.
2b. Here you introduce the argument that opposes your P2.
3c. Here you introduce the argument that opposes your P3.

Your Responses

1a. Here, you provide an I (Information) that responds to the counter argument in a way that upholds your P1. You must explain it, too.
2b. Here, you provide an I (Information) that responds to the counter argument in a way that upholds your P2. You must explain it, too.
3c. Here, you provide an I (Information) that responds to the counter argument in a way that upholds your P3. You must explain it, too.

Conclusion / Call—to—Action

This is your **conclusion**, which restates your thesis in a slightly more generalized way. It should also include a **Call-to-Action**—something concrete and specific that the reader can do to help solve or resolve the issue. A good **call-to-action** is positive, immediate and attainable. Examples include: “Donate to the American Cancer Society to help fund research into colon cancer.” Or, “Volunteer at the Salvation Army’s Women and Children’s Shelter downtown in June, when the organization has the fewest number of volunteers.”