

ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

DEFINITION: In this kind of essay, we not only give information but also present an argument with the PROS (supporting ideas) and CONS (opposing ideas) of an argumentative issue.

STRUCTURE:

1. INTRODUCTION: (one paragraph)
 - A) HOOK SENTENCE
 - B) BACKGROUND INFORMATION
 - C) THESIS (YOUR POSITION)

2. DEVELOPING YOUR ARGUMENT (two paragraphs)
 - A) CLAIM 1 + EVIDENCE
 - B) CLAIM 2 + EVIDENCE

CLAIM: a statement supporting your thesis

EVIDENCE: factual information from reliable sources

3. REFUTING THE OPPONENTS' ARGUMENTS (one paragraph) At least one opponent's view and its rebuttal
 - A) STATE YOUR OPPONENT'S VIEW 1 + REBUTTAL
 - B) STATE YOUR OPPONENT'S VIEW 2 + REBUTTAL

REBUTTAL = counter argument

4. CONCLUSION (one paragraph)
 - A) RESTATE THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR ISSUE
 - B) PAINT A PICTURE OF THE WORLD IF YOUR ARGUMENT IS (OR IS NOT) IMPLEMENTED.

LANGUAGE: Signposts gain importance in the argumentative essay. They enable the readers to follow our arguments easily.

When pointing out opposing arguments (CONS):

Opponents of this idea claim / maintain that ... Those who disagree / are against these ideas may say / assert that ...
Some people may disagree with this idea.

When stating specifically why they think like that:

They put forward this idea because ... They claim that ... since ...

Reaching the turning point:

However, but, On the other hand.....

When refuting the opposing idea, we may use the following strategies:

- *compromise* but prove that their argument is not powerful enough:
They have a point in thinking like that / To a certain extent they are right.
- *completely disagree*: After seeing this evidence, there is no way we can agree with what they say.
- say that their argument is *irrelevant* to the topic:
What we are discussing here is not what they are trying to prove / Their argument is irrelevant.

REMEMBER:

Opinions are subjective, that is what you think, but could be wrong. In an opinion essay you take a stand on a topic and support your opinion with facts, definitions, details.

Arguments must be reasoned, logical ideas and evidence-based. In an argumentative essay you state a thesis and analyse the topic. You use facts, evidence and reasons to develop your claims, and oppose to counter arguments.

EXAMPLE OF AN ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY: FASHION AND IDENTITY

Topic: The impact of fashion on every person and fashion as an integral part of a person's identity.

Essay Questions (brainstorming): What is the main tool every man uses to stand out from the crowd? How does clothing become a part of the self-realization of people? Why is fashion for both men and women associated with their identity?

1. INTRODUCTION: (one paragraph)

A) HOOK SENTENCE For hundreds of years people have put some message in the type of clothing they wore.

B) BACKGROUND INFORMATION Long ago people started wanting to stand out from the "crowd" by means of changing their clothing. Some examples became very popular and were followed by more people and this was the moment when fashion appeared. It is necessary to say that at the present moment fashion has a deep influence on the life of people.

C) THESIS (YOUR POSITION) Clothing has become an integral part of self-realization of every person. This "necessity", fashion, brings a lot of variety into the lives of people and makes their image more complete.

2. DEVELOPING YOUR ARGUMENT (two paragraphs)

A) CLAIM 1 + EVIDENCE The type of clothing completely depends on the person who is wearing it; therefore it becomes a reflection of his perception of himself, which leads us to the term – personal identity. The choice of clothing and accessories (clothing that is worn or carried, but not part of a person's main clothing) is as important as identification through the color of hair, height, skin and gender. Clothing nowadays is a media of information about the person wearing it. Therefore, the clothing of a person is a mean of communication with the outside world. Just think of the different urban tribes. Their way of "being different" is expressed through their clothing style.

B) CLAIM 2 + EVIDENCE It is not that the clothes that people wear are usually very symbolic. The symbolism of clothing is another part of delivering the message that a person tries to put into it. The symbolism may touch any sphere. For instance: music, sexual orientation, some kind of club and so on. Think of the T-shirts showing messages, names of music bands, slogans.....

3. REFUTING THE OPPONENTS' ARGUMENTS (one paragraph) At least one opponent's view and its rebuttal

A) STATE YOUR OPPONENT'S VIEW 1 + REBUTTAL There is no way to agree with people who think fashion is something frivolous. It may be for really wealthy people, but, on the contrary, for most people it is a way of expressing themselves and show they are different, or that they belong to a group. The "freedom of word" has also found its way in fashion

B) STATE YOUR OPPONENT'S VIEW 2 + REBUTTAL Some claim that fashion states the social and economical status of people. However, lately we have experienced the phenomenon of democratization of fashion, which is now more at reach for people belonging to different social classes without losing dignity.

4. CONCLUSION (one paragraph)

A) RESTATE THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR ISSUE Fashion and identity are inseparable companions. Fashion provides a base for personal and cultural identification and self-realization of a person,.....

B) PAINT A PICTURE OF THE WORLD IF YOUR ARGUMENT IS (OR IS NOT) IMPLEMENTED.or shall we all dress in the same clothes? Will difference of culture, ideas, beliefs be wiped out? Then we would go to uniformity. Undoubtedly, it is not about people serving fashion; it is about fashion serving people.

TASK. Write an argumentative essay about this topic: Do violent video games cause behavior problems? (about 120 words)

DRAFT: To be given in to the teacher, together with the essay.

Start your outline here: brainstorm about the topic.

- You may use a spider diagram.
- You could start analysing the key words in the sentence which states the topic.