

# Argumentative Writing

## What is argumentative writing?

The purpose of an argumentative essay is to convince the reader to agree with the author's point of view on an issue or topic. To completely influence the reader, the author needs to state more than his/her opinion. The author must make a claim supported by clear reasons and valid information. The author's logical organization of supporting details creates a line of reasoning to substantiate, or prove, the claim.

## What are some key features of argumentative writing?

An argumentative piece has many distinctive features. The introduction includes a thesis statement, which clearly states the author's claim. The introduction provides some general background on the topic and an explanation as to why the reader should consider the topic important. Alternate views are acknowledged and the author's claim is distinguished from the opposing view(s). The introductory paragraph begins with a statement which grabs the attention of the reader with a creative hook (i.e. an unusual fact, a leading question, an interesting quote, a fascinating statistic, or a strong statement).

The author uses logic and reasoning in organizing body paragraphs to support his/her position with solid, accurate evidence and research (i.e. facts, statistics, examples, statements from authorities, or quotes from credible books and articles). When referencing print or digital materials, the author is careful to

properly cite the source. Standard format for citation is utilized in this mode of writing.

The claim(s), counterclaims, reasons and evidence are connected through varied transitional words, phrases and clauses. These transitions assist in the establishment of a cohesive piece where ideas and concepts flow.

The conclusion includes a strong restatement of the author's point of view. The author's concluding words leave the reader thinking about next steps.

## What are some points to remember when writing an argumentative piece?

In the argumentative mode of writing, it is important that the author thinks about the intended audience and the most effective way to convince the readers of his/her point of view. Opposing views need to be acknowledged and analyzed. The tone should have a respectfully argumentative stance. To be truly convincing, an argumentative piece should not be written in first person. When the word "I" is used in an argument, the statement tends to lose some validity. The argumentative piece should be organized so that the author has built a cohesive and concrete case to support his/her position or point of view.

As with any published writing, the author writes neatly so the piece is readable. The author proofreads his/her writing to check for clarity. Editing is done as a final step to check for format, capitalization, punctuation, grammar and spelling.

## Sources:

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