

Argumentative Essay Guidesheet and Brainstorming Map

Use these guidelines and graphic to help you brainstorm, structure, and write an argumentative essay.

1. Opening paragraph: Describe the purpose of the essay.
 - Discuss the issue or problem, including background information.
 - State your claim or position.
 - Engage the reader with an interesting hook or thought.
2. Paragraph two: Present a piece of your supporting evidence.
 - State your evidence in the topic sentence.
 - Clarify and describe why the evidence supports your claim.
 - Discuss the counterclaims.
 - Summarize your evidence.
3. Paragraphs three, four, five, and so on: State your evidence in the topic sentence.
 - Clarify and describe why the evidence supports your claim.
 - Discuss the counterclaims.
 - Summarize your evidence.
4. Concluding paragraph: Summarize your points.
 - Restate your claim.
 - Restate your evidence in a condensed, simplified format.
 - End with an interesting thought, line, idea, or next question for study.

