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Adapted from 'Some Possible Moves to Make in an Argumentative Essay' (p. 48)

Macknish, C. (2010). *Academic and professional writing for teachers*. Singapore: McGraw-Hill Education.

| Template (points in bold are compulsory) | Write your outline here (also decide approx no of words per part) |
|--|---|
| <p>Introduction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Establish the context, e.g. (one or more of the following):<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. interpret the topicb. situate the discussionc. provide relevant/necessary background informationd. indicate the focuse. briefly clarify or define key concepts2. Show the significance of the topic (indicate why the reader should care).3. State the <u>thesis</u> (which directly addresses/answers the question clearly and concisely; in an argumentative essay, it should state your stand).4. Outline the structure of the argument to support the thesis. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.3. |
| <p>Body paragraph (XXXXYY format) (you can have 3 paragraphs for 3 against, or vice versa; this form may be easier if stating a stand is not necessary)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. State first/second/third main point that <i>supports</i> | <p>Body para A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2a.2b. |

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| <p>the thesis (i.e. for) (<u>topic sentence</u>).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cite factual, statistical or logical evidence to support this main point. Cite examples to support this main point. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> State first/second main point that <i>opposes</i> the thesis (i.e. against) (<u>topic sentence</u>). Cite factual, statistical or logical evidence to support this main point. Cite examples to support this main point. Address this opposing argument (explain how it may be misinformed, outdated, insignificant or irrelevant to the context, etc.). | <p>Body para B</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Body para C</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Body para D</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Body para E</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> |
| <p>Body paragraph (XYXYXY/Toulmin format) (this can be one paragraph, or 4 & 5 can be in a separate paragraph if it gets too long)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> State first/second/third main point that supports the thesis (<u>topic sentence</u>). Cite factual, statistical or logical evidence to support this main point. Cite examples to support this main point. | <p>Body para A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Body para B</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> |

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| <p>4. Acknowledge opposing arguments to this main point.</p> <p>5. Address these opposing arguments (explain how they may be misinformed, outdated, insignificant or irrelevant to the context, etc.).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A. State the main points that support the thesis, and cite factual, statistical or logical evidence to support them.</p> <p>B. Acknowledge opposing arguments to this main point.</p> <p>C. Address these opposing arguments (explain how they may be misinformed, outdated, insignificant or irrelevant to the context, etc.).</p> | <p>2a.</p> <p>2b.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>Body para C</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2a.</p> <p>2b.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Body para A</p> <p>Body para B</p> <p>Body para C</p> |
| <p>Conclusion</p> <p>1. Restate the thesis (rephrase the thesis statement).</p> <p>2. Summarise the points presented.</p> <p>3. Restate the significance of the topic.</p> <p>4. State general implications OR make recommendations.</p> | <p>1.</p> <p>4.</p> |
| <p>References</p> | <p>This should be in APA style (unless otherwise instructed by your tutor).</p> |