

Antarctica Argument

Definition of a Continent:

"A large unbroken landmass surrounded by water"

Below is a map of what geographers believe Antarctica would look like without its ice.



Geographers have been mapping the world for hundreds of years. In order to better understand the earth, they divide areas into regions with common characteristics. Among the largest of these regions are the continents and oceans. At this point in time geographers divide the earth into seven continents: *North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa and Antarctica.*

However, thanks to technology our understanding of the earth is constantly growing, but the earth itself is constantly changing. The maps we will use in the future might look very different from the maps we use today. Current maps show Antarctica as one large island, but ground penetrating radar has revealed that Antarctica is actually a chain of islands connected together by extremely dense glacial ice.

Today, polar ice is melting at historically fast rates. One day soon the islands that make up Antarctica may all be separated by the Southern Ocean. Do you believe that geographers should still continue to consider Antarctica a continent? Why or why not?

Before you write, consider what you know about the topic:

Evidence that Antarctica *IS* a continent:

Evidence that Antarctica *IS NOT* a continent:

As you write, use the paragraph format as an outline for your argument:

→ **Sentence 1: Take a Stand** - Be very clear when you start your paragraph on whether Antarctica is or is not a continent.

→ **Sentences 2-4: Evidence** - Use the evidence statements you wrote above to prove why Antarctica is or is not a continent.

→ **Sentence 5-6: Counter-Evidence** - Explain the evidence that would be used by someone arguing for the opposite belief. Explain why their evidence is and their belief is wrong.

→ **Sentence 7: Conclusion** - Finish your paragraph with a one-sentence summary re-explaining to the reader why your side of the argument is the correct side.

Write your argumentative paragraph here: