

# Argument Essay Outline - Toulmin Method

Name:

**Directions:** Complete the outline for your argumentative essay using the key sections listed below. The italicized descriptions are to help you get the most out of the outline.

## I. Introduction Paragraph

**A. The Hook:** *How are you going to get the readers' attention?*

**B. Background:** *Give some background information on the topic you are writing about.*

**C. Claim/Thesis Statement:** *After giving some background, narrow your focus to your exact claim/thesis statement for this essay. This lays the foundation for the rest of your essay. Make sure your claim has **qualifiers** and **exceptions** to limit your focus (refer back to the 1st module if you need to review qualifiers and exceptions..*

## II. Body Paragraph One - *This should be the **1st main reason** that you use to make your claim/argument.*

**A. Transition Sentence:** *Use a good transitional sentence from the previous paragraph.*

**B. Reason to Discuss:** *Clearly state what the first reason is with any qualifiers or exceptions you think are necessary.*

**C. Evidence to support your Reason:** *Give the evidence from secondary sources to support your reasoning. Make sure to give proper MLA citations (in-text citations) to give credit.*

**D. Argument Discussion:** *This should be the largest part of the paragraph. This is where you discuss why the reason is relevant and important to this argument. This should be at least several sentences.*

## III. Body Paragraph Two - *This should be the **2nd main reason** that you use to make your claim/argument.*

**A. Transition Sentence:** *Use a good transitional sentence from the previous paragraph.*

**B. Reason to Discuss:** *Clearly state what the first reason is with any qualifiers or exceptions you think are necessary.*

**C. Evidence to support your Reason:** *Give the evidence from secondary sources to support your reasoning. Make sure to give proper MLA citations (in-text citations) to give credit.*

**D. Argument Discussion:** *This should be the largest part of the paragraph. This is where you discuss why the reason is relevant and important to this argument. This should be at least several sentences.*

**IV. Body Paragraph Three** - *This should be the **3rd main reason** that you use to make your claim/argument.*

**A. Transition Sentence:** *Use a good transitional sentence from the previous paragraph.*

**B. Reason to Discuss:** *Clearly state what the first reason is with any qualifiers or exceptions you think are necessary.*

**C. Evidence to support your Reason:** *Give the evidence from secondary sources to support your reasoning. Make sure to give proper MLA citations (in-text citations) to give credit.*

**D. Argument Discussion:** *This should be the largest part of the paragraph. This is where you discuss why the reason is relevant and important to this argument. This should be at least several sentences.*

**V. Other Body Paragraphs One** - *If you have more reasons to support your claim, add more body paragraphs.*

**VI. Objection and Rebuttal Paragraph One** - *This where you give some credence to anticipated objections to your argument.*

**A. Transition Sentence:** *Use a good transitional to set up this Objection. Some examples might be... "Others might object to ..." or "There are some valid counter arguments to this discussion..." etc.*

**B. Objection:** *Clearly state what some of the objections or counter arguments might be to your claim. Be sure to anticipate some of the best of these objections, not just ones that are easy to defeat..*

**C. Rebuttal:** *After giving the anticipated objections to your claim, carefully layout your rebuttal or rebuttals to them. It would be wise and helpful to give more evidence from secondary sources to support your rebuttal ideas.*

**VII. Conclusion Paragraph**

**A. Transition Sentence:** *Use a good transitional sentence from the previous paragraph.*

**B. Restate your thesis and key points:** *This is your last chance to remind your readers of the key ideas you argued and some of the key points that were made. Take time to craft this so it is not just a word for word repetition, but a well thought out final/closing argument for your position.*