

Argumentative Essay Checklist

Introduction

☐ 1. Hook

- ☐ The essay has an attention-grabbing hook that's clearly connected to the topic.
- ☐ The hook is developed through an anecdote, startling fact, surprising statistic, quotation, contrary opinion, or emotionally charged statement.

☐ 2. Background Information

- ☐ The essay provides 2-3 sentences explaining the history or background of the issue.
- ☐ The background information is relevant and helps set the context for the argument.

☐ 3. Thesis Statement

- ☐ The thesis statement is strong and clear, stating the position on the issue.
- ☐ The thesis includes both the topic and the position.

☐ 4. Blueprint

- ☐ The blueprint sentence outlines 2-3 lines of argumentation supporting the thesis.
- ☐ The blueprint logically follows from the thesis statement.

Body Paragraphs

☐ 1. First Body Paragraph

- ☐ The paragraph starts with a transition and a topic sentence that reflects the first line of argumentation.
- ☐ The paragraph includes supporting evidence such as facts, statistics, examples, observations, or expert opinions.
- ☐ A concluding sentence ties the paragraph together and leads into the next one.

☐ 2. Second Body Paragraph

- ☐ The paragraph begins with a transition and a topic sentence that reflects the second line of argumentation.
- ☐ The paragraph includes supporting evidence.

- ☐ A concluding sentence ties the paragraph together and leads into the next one.
- ☐ 3. Third Body Paragraph
 - ☐ The paragraph starts with a transition and a topic sentence that reflects the third line of argumentation.
 - ☐ The paragraph includes supporting evidence.
 - ☐ A concluding sentence ties the paragraph together and leads into the next one.
- ☐ 4. Counterclaims/Concessions
 - ☐ The essay addresses opposing viewpoints and provides rebuttals or counterarguments.
 - ☐ The counterclaims and rebuttals are logically integrated within the essay, either in the body paragraphs or separately.

Conclusion

- ☐ 1. Reworded Thesis Statement
 - ☐ The conclusion restates the thesis in a reworded form.
- ☐ 2. Call to Action/Solution
 - ☐ The conclusion includes a call to action or suggests a solution to the issue.
 - ☐ The suggested next steps are logical and feasible.
- ☐ 3. Clincher Statement
 - ☐ The conclusion ends with a clincher statement that ties back to the lead and leaves a lasting impression.

Sources/References

- ☐ 1. Citations
 - ☐ All sources and references are correctly cited within the essay.
 - ☐ In-text citations follow the appropriate style guide.
- ☐ 2. Works Cited Page
 - ☐ A separate Works Cited page is included at the end of the essay.
 - ☐ The Works Cited page lists all sources in the correct format.

Content

☐ 1. Critical Thinking

- ☐ The essay demonstrates critical thinking by presenting a well-reasoned argument.
- ☐ The arguments are logically structured and supported by credible evidence.

☐ 2. Use of Language

- ☐ The language is formal, clear, and concise.
- ☐ Vocabulary is varied and appropriate for the audience and purpose.
- ☐ The essay is free from slang, casual expressions, and personal pronouns (I or you).

☐ 3. Accuracy

- ☐ The essay is free from grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors.
- ☐ The information presented is accurate and reliable.