

How to write an argument essay



How to Write an Argument Essay There are five main steps. Step 1: Read the essay Read the question. Decide what kind of essay it is – opinion, compare/contrast, problem and solution, cause and effect, or a mixture. The type of question will decide the layout and your ideas. Step 2: Underline Underline key vocabulary in the question and write words with the same or related meaning. This will really save you a lot of time later on. It will also help to avoid repetition of words, and will show that you understand the question. Vocabulary 1: Read and Underline Key Words

Should governments spend money on space exploration, or should they spend the money on problems here first? 2: Write Down Other Words with the Same Meaning Should governments spend money on space exploration, or should they spend the money on problems here first? Governments = nations, countries, authorities, politicians Spend = allocate, give, allot, provide, budget, make available, waste, award Space exploration = space program, trips to the moon, the international space station, planets, planetary voyages Money = budgets, taxes, resources,

Problems = concerns, issues, worries, disasters, threats, threatening, war, famine, poverty, education, homelessness, drugs, global warming Here = on earth, in our own countries, closer to home, in developing countries, foreign aid, 3: Use Your New Words in the Opening Sentences With many global concerns such as war, poverty, hunger and pollution, many people do not think that nations should waste money on exploring space. (One side) However, others are convinced that expenditure on space programs is justified. (Other side) 4: Add a Thesis With many global concerns such as war, poverty, hunger and pollution, many people question whether nations

should waste money on exploring space. However, others are convinced that expenditure on space programs is justified. This essay will examine some arguments for and against space exploration. (Thesis) > Exercise: Are zoos cruel to wild animals? Step 3: Get Ideas Decide if you are for or against the idea. Usually it is best to give both sides (for and against – one paragraph each) and then to give your opinion in the conclusion. However there are other ways of laying out your essay. Two sides of an argument Give the other side's opinion, and then give YOUR opinion

Give the other side Some people think that... Although many people feel that... It is claimed that... Some people feel that... One sentence (While, although) While it is true that... ... I believe... Despite the fact that millions of people die every year from lung cancer, many people think it is cool to smoke. Although many people think that.... , I feel that Although it is often said that..., in fact the opposite is true Two sentences It is undoubtedly true that... ...However... It is often argued that... However, it is Some people say that... They claim... However, I feel... Supporters of this viewpoint say that... However, it is

One sentence (While, although) While it is true that... ... I believe... Despite the fact that millions of people die every year from lung cancer, many people think it is cool to smoke. Although many people think that.... , I feel that Although it is often said that..., in fact the opposite is true The 3773 Layout The number 3773 just means three sentences in the introduction, seven in the second paragraph, and seven in the third paragraph and three in the conclusion. Either Introduction Body: Paragraph For Paragraph Against Conclusion Or Introduction Body: Paragraph Against Paragraph For

Conclusion Introduction: | Present situation | | Three sentences | Both sides of Argument | | | What you are going to do in this essay / Your opinion (Thesis sentence) | | Paragraph 2 | Topic Sentence | | Seven/eight sentences | Argument 1 or Reason 1 | | | Example, Explanation, or supporting detail | | | | | | | | Argument 2 or Reason 2 | | Example, Explanation, or supporting detail | | | Argument 3 or Reason 3 | | | Example, Explanation, or supporting detail | | | Summary sentence for Para 2 | | Paragraph 3 | Topic Sentence | | Seven/eight sentences | Argument 1 or Reason 1 | | | Example, Explanation, or supporting detail | | | | | | | | Argument 2 or Reason 2 | | | Example, Explanation, or supporting detail | | | Argument 3 or Reason 3 | | | Example, Explanation, or supporting detail | | | Summary sentence for Para 3 | | Conclusion | Summary | | | Present situation and your opinion | | | Future statement |

Layout 35553 The number 35553 just means a five-paragraph essay with three sentences in the introduction, five sentences in the second, third and fourth paragraphs, and three in the conclusion. There are three paragraphs in the body because you should have three ideas (three is a magic number.) In each of the three body paragraphs you need about two or three examples and supporting information to back those ideas up. Either

| Or | | Introduction | Introduction | | For | Against | | For | Against | | For | Against | | Conclusion | Conclusion |

The example below could be for or against. Introduction: | Present situation and/or Both sides of Argument (1-2 sentences) | | Three sentences | What you are going to do in this essay / Your opinion (Thesis sentence) | | Paragraph 2 | Topic Sentence: Argument 1 or Reason 1 | | Five Sentences | Example, Explanation, or supporting detail (2-4 sentences) | | Paragraph 3 | Topic Sentence: Argument 2 or Reason 2 | | Five Sentences | Example, Explanation, or supporting detail (2-4 sentences) | | |

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| Paragraph 4 | Topic Sentence: Argument 3 or Reason 3 | | Five Sentences | Example, Explanation, or supporting detail (2-4 sentences) | | | | Conclusion | Summary | | Three Sentences | Present situation and your opinion | | | Future | Step 4: Decide Layout You should decide on a layout. The easiest is 3773.

That means four paragraphs: introduction (3 sentences) one side (7 sentences), the other side (7 sentences) and the conclusion (3 sentences). This will give you 20 sentences. An average of about 12 words each, that is 240 words. Perfect! Introductions One easy way to write the introduction for an argument or opinion essay is to write THREE sentences: two about the topic, one thesis sentence You can write either Situation or Opinion introductions. There's not much difference between them. Situation Introductions Write two sentences to describe the two sides of the present situation. The third sentence - the Thesis sentence - will describe what you are going to do in your essay. Sentence 1 One side of the present situation Sentence 2 The other side of the present situation

Sentence 3 Thesis: What you are going to do in your essay Who should take care of our old people? Sentence 1 In my country, most old people live happily with their children. Sentence 2 Increasingly however, many families cannot take care of their parents Sentence 3 (Thesis) This essay will describe some of the problems involved with taking care of old people, and discuss who should be responsible. Does Aid to Poor Countries Work? Sentence(s) 1 For the last fifty years, poor countries have been receiving huge sums of money from rich donor countries. Sentence 2 Some of this money has improved lives, while much of it has disappeared or made no difference.

Sentence 3 (Thesis) In this essay, I will discuss some arguments for and against foreign aid. Should dangerous sports be banned? Sentence 1 Every year, thousands of people are injured or killed in sports such as boxing or motor-racing. Sentence 2 Because of this, many people are opposed to such sports, and want them to be stopped or controlled. Sentence 3 (Thesis) This essay will look at some of the arguments for and against banning dangerous sports. Opinion Introductions In this kind you give two opposite opinions in the first two sentences. The third sentence says what you are going to do. Does space exploration benefit mankind? Sentence For Many people are excited about space exploration.

Sentence Against However, others feel it is a massive waste of money Sentence 3 (Thesis) This essay will look at some of the arguments for and against space exploration. (32 words) Does space exploration benefit mankind? Sentence For Space, for many people, really is the final frontier. They are excited by the exploration and potential of space. Sentence Against However, not everyone agrees that this money is well-spent. Many people feel that we should solve problems here on earth before beginning our journey to space Sentence 3 (Thesis) This essay will look at some of the arguments for and against space exploration. (58 words) Do Athletes Deserve Their High Salaries? Sentence(s) 1 Everyday, we read about new record contracts and salaries earned by sportsmen and women.

Some people do not agree with these huge payments Sentence 2 Others believe that our sports heroes deserve every penny. Sentence 3 (Thesis) This essay will look at some of the arguments for and against the high salaries of athletes. Finally, if you are having problem thinking about an introduction,

leave some space and write it later – AFTER you write the body or conclusion. Some examples Are cash incentives a good way to motivate employees? (Some companies give their employees bonuses or cash awards for excellent work, in addition to salary. Do you think this is a good idea?) [pic] Introductions This page has six different introductions to the above topic. As you look at them, try to decide if they are opinion or situation openings.

Also look at the thesis sentences, and guess if the writer agrees or disagrees.

Intro 1 Money makes the world go round, and nowhere is this truer than in the workplace. Employers know that money is one of the best motivators. However, are bonuses or cash awards always the best way to reward employees? In this essay, I will look at some of the arguments for cash as a reward. Intro 2 Money makes the world go round, and nowhere is this truer than in the workplace. Employers know that money is one of the best motivators. However, are bonuses or cash awards always the best way to reward employees? In this essay, I will look at some of the arguments against using cash as an incentive. Intro 2

Many people argue that cash incentives are an unfair means of motivating employees. Others love the simple, practical, down-to-earth gift of money for a job well done. I feel that while there are some circumstances where money is the best recognition for extra work, there are other times it is inappropriate. Intro 4 Many companies give outstanding members of staff bonuses for good work. I firmly believe that this is demeaning, trivializing, and bad for morale. Intro 5 People are motivated by different things. Some

employees have financial goals, others have professional goals, and others have personal goals. The same incentives cannot work for all.

This essay outlines some of the reasons why cash is not always a suitable motivator for excellent employees. Intro 6 The primary reason why people have to work is because of money. Employers know this, and many companies reward outstanding employees with bonuses and cash rewards. In this essay, I will show that most people are motivated by money, and cash is a fair and effective way for management to show appreciation to hardworking staff. Protecting the Environment: Who is Responsible? Intro 1 Today we live in a global consumer society. People across the world purchase, use, and dispose of a huge variety of products which make our lives easier and more comfortable. However, the result of this is massive damage to our environment.

This essay will examine how authorities and individuals need to work together to protect our resources and our planet. Intro 2 What can one individual do to protect the environment? Very little, it may seem, especially compared to the power of governments and huge industrial companies. However, working together with dozens, hundreds, or millions of other people, we can influence and change policies which are destroying our environment. This essay will discuss ways in which individuals can take responsibility for their world. Intro 3 The world is an increasingly interlinked place. Huge multinational corporations trade across the planet. Countries are joining together in vast economic zones and creating enormous markets.

These powerful corporations and groups increase trade and movement and have the capacity to dominate global politics and economy. In this essay I will discuss how the individual is becoming powerless to change his world.

Intro 4 The only way to protect the environment is for individuals to take responsibility for their own lifestyle and to force their governments to implement good environmental policies. Conclusion Should we test products on animals? I agree that we need to make sure that animals who are used for testing new products have the minimum of suffering. However, I am convinced that animal testing is necessary, and that it will continue to benefit humans in new and wonderful ways. Should we beat children?

In conclusion, physical punishment can be a useful method of discipline. However it should be the last choice for parents. If we want to build a world with less violence we must begin at home, and we must teach our children to be responsible. Is education important? In conclusion, although there are undoubtedly some problems with increased levels of education, I feel strongly that the country can only progress if all its people are educated to the maximum of their ability. Who are the better parents – men or women? I think this is not an either/or question. Both men and women have strengths and skills that are important for children's psychological growth.

We need to ensure that both parents play an important role in the family in order to give children a good start in life. Who learns quicker – adults or children? Finally, I feel that we cannot generalize about children or adults being better learners. It depends on the situation and the motivation of the person, and the level of enthusiasm he or she has for learning. Should dangerous sports be banned? In summary, our society would be healthier if

more people took part in sports of all kinds. We should continue to try to prevent accidents and injuries. However, we should also ensure that sports are challenging, exciting, and, above all, fun. Step 5: Write After you have written your plan, write your essay.

Follow the steps in this website for writing the introduction, body, and conclusion. Check for fragments, run-ons and comma splices. Fragments, Commas Splices, and Run-Ons Fragments Fragments are incomplete sentences. They are missing a verb or a subject or both. First, the lack of exercise. Furthermore, the huge development of the country, easy life and transportation. Although the number falling. Also the different kinds of entertainment such as videos and television. For example, fast food, sweet things and oily food. How can you fix them? Add a subject, or verb, or both. Try adding a phrase. First, the lack of exercise has led to a big increase in the number of overweight people.

Furthermore, the huge development of the country, an easier life and luxury cars have meant that many people do not have to work hard. Although the number is falling, many students still do not finish high school. Different kinds media such as video and television can provide good family entertainment. For example, fast food, sweet things and oily food can all lead to obesity. Comma Splices Comma splices are sentences that should be separate, but are joined with a comma Run-Ons Run-Ons are sentences that should be separate, but are joined anyway. In the past people did not have cars they used to walk. (Run-On) Heart disease is a big problem it kills thousands of people (Run-On) Our modern life is very easy, jobs are easier than they were 50 years ago. Comma Splice) The streets are full of fast food
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restaurants, people eat there very often. (Comma Splice) How can you fix them? Make them into two sentences. Keep your sentences short. Watch out if you find yourself using commas. Ask “ Would a full stop be better? ” In the past, people did not have cars. They used to walk. Heart disease is a big problem. It kills thousands of people. Our modern life is very easy. Jobs are easier than they were 50 years ago. The streets are full of fast food restaurants. People eat there very often. (This last sentence might better be rewritten as “ The streets are lined with crowded restaurants” or “ People enjoy eating in the busy restaurants”) Do you believe that societies ought to enforce capital punishment or Are there alternative forms of punishment that would be better used? ” Intro What cp is. Where it’s used. (not my country). Differing opinions. I don’t believe in cp. There are alternative punishments. Body Inhumane – we shouldn’t sink to the level of criminals. We can get convictions wrong; prisoners can be released if there’s an error. Mentally ill. Examples. Alternative punishments: life means life; hospitals for criminally insane. Costs more but society has a duty to care. Many countries favour it and they say it works. Prisons too full. Killers deserve nothing less. Some crimes deserve it. Not my morals though. Conclusion I don’t agree. We can do other things.

Avoid mistakes and make modern society a humane one. Capital punishment is the killing of a criminal for a crime that he has committed. Previously most countries employed this method of punishment but nowadays it is much less widely used. I personally do not believe that societies today should use capital punishment and I also believe that there are alternative punishments that can be used. My main argument against capital punishment is that I

believe we do not have the right to kill another human being regardless of the crime. I don't believe in the old religious maxim of " an eye for an eye. " Modern societies shouldn't turn to such barbaric punishments.

Another argument against capital punishment is that people can be wrongly convicted and executed. If a man is in prison, he can be released if later proved not guilty. If he is dead, there is nothing that can be done. In the UK, a group of supposed terrorists were convicted of murder in Birmingham in the 1970s. They were proved innocent about 15 years later and released. If they had been executed, innocent people would have died. There are alternative punishments available. For bad crimes prison life sentences can be given with criminals imprisoned for the rest of their lives. Also a lot of horrific crimes are committed by people who are mentally sick.

These people are not responsible for their actions and can be kept safely and permanently in secure hospitals. Yes, this costs a lot more but I believe it is the duty of society to do this. There are arguments for capital punishment. Many people feel its threat stops serious crime and that criminals deserve nothing less. It's cheaper and keeps the prisons manageable. I can understand this point of view but I cannot agree with it. So, in conclusion, I don't believe in capital punishment, as there are less barbaric alternatives available. We can avoid horrific mistakes and make modern society a humane one. Corporal Punishment Effective when used wisely Many parents use physical punishment to discipline their children.

Others prefer to use different methods to reward good behavior or punish misbehavior. This essay will look at some of the arguments for and against

physical punishment of children. It is often claimed that physical punishment will damage children in later life. Opponents of corporal punishment claim that the children will grow up to become delinquents or even beat their wives. However, many happily married adults today were slapped when they were younger but have never hit their spouses. Another point often made is that physical punishment teaches children that you can use force to make others do what you want. In fact children brought up well soon learn that force by itself is nothing – it must be associated with right.

Finally, some people say that punishing a child by smacking him will damage the relationship between the child and the parents. This is clearly wrong. Children who understand the reasons for rules will be happier than children who are not given clear guidelines. There are definitely concerns about physical punishment. Some parents lose control and can injure children – even breaking bones or causing bruises. Others can use violence excessively or as the only method of discipline. In this case, the child will be hurt, fearful and anxious and will not learn to distinguish right from wrong. The biggest problem with physical violence is when it is not appropriate to the age of the child.

It can be very effective to quickly smack a two-year-old who is screaming. However, it is not effective to beat a 16-year-old who is late for school once again. In conclusion, physical punishment can be a useful method of discipline. However it should be the last choice for parents. If we want to build a world with less violence we must begin at home, and we must teach our children to be responsible. 317 words Education: Still Invaluable! Is Education Being Devalued? | Topic Sentence | People have several

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arguments against the need for degrees. | | Argument or Reason 1 | They say that having so many graduates devalues a degree. | Example, Explanation, or supporting detail | People lose respect for the degree holder. | | Argument or Reason 2 | It is also claimed that education has become a rat race,... | | Example, Explanation, or supporting detail | ... since graduates have to compete for jobs even after years of studying. | | Argument or Reason 3 | Another point is that studying for such a long time leads to learners becoming inflexible. | | Example, Explanation, or supporting detail | By that I mean that they know a lot about one narrow subject, but are unable to apply their skills. | Example, Explanation, or supporting detail (You can | | Employers, on the other hand, prefer more flexible and adaptable workers. | | have one, two, or even more of these for every idea) | | People have several arguments against the need for degrees. They say that having so many graduates devalues a degree. People lose respect for the degree holder. It is also claimed that education has become a rat race, since graduates have to compete for jobs even after years of studying. Another point is that studying for such a long time leads to learners becoming inflexible. By that I mean that they know a lot about one narrow subject, but are unable to apply their skills. Employers, on the other hand, prefer more flexible and adaptable workers. ((((((((((

In the past, degrees were very unusual in my family. I remember the day my uncle graduated. We had a huge party, and for many years my mother called him “ the genius” and listened to his opinion. Today, in comparison five of my brothers and sisters have degrees, and two are studying for their masters’. However, some people think that this increased access to

education is devaluing degrees. In this essay, I will look at some of the arguments for and against the increased emphasis on degrees in our society. People have several arguments against the need for degrees. They say that having so many graduates devalues a degree. People lose respect for the degree holder.

It is also claimed that education has become a rat race. Graduates have to compete for jobs even after years of studying. Another point is that studying for such a long time leads to learners becoming inflexible. They know a lot about one narrow subject, but are unable to apply their skills. Employers prefer more flexible and adaptable workers. However, I feel strongly that this move to having more qualifications is a positive development. In the past education was only for the rich and powerful. Now it is available to everyone, and this will have many advantages for the country and the individual. First of all, it is impossible to be overeducated.

The more people are educated, the better the world will be, because people will be able to discuss and exchange ideas. A further point is that people with degrees have many more opportunities. They can take a wider variety of jobs and do what they enjoy doing, instead of being forced to take a job they dislike. Finally, a highly educated workforce is good for the economy of the country. It attracts foreign investment. In conclusion, although there are undoubtedly some problems with increased levels of education, I feel strongly that the country can only progress if all its people are educated to the maximum of their ability. 339 words Dominoes – Keep Playing!

Many students lose marks in writing because they don't develop ideas. They have good ideas, but don't write enough about each one. In the game of dominoes, you keep playing until you cannot continue. Keep writing until you can't continue! (And then start a new paragraph!) Take a paragraph like:

Many people think that the Internet will replace books and newspapers because it is cheaper and quicker. As well as that, it is easier to use. Bad!

The writer put two ideas together – “ cheaper” and “ quicker. ” He or she didn't explain how the Internet is cheaper and quicker. And is the Internet really “ easier to use”? The ideas are good , but the development is weak.

Develop Your Ideas Let's develop the sentences.

The Internet is cheaper than newspapers, because you can read many newspapers for free on their websites. The Internet is quicker to bring news and information out. It can take years for a book to be published and reach the bookstore. The information is often out of date. For me, the Internet is easier to use, because you can find information more quickly and easily than in a big library or in a big set of encyclopedias. You just use a search engine and the results come instantly.

Add a Topic Now all you need is a topic sentence. Many people think that the Internet will replace books and newspapers because it is cheaper, quicker and easier to use.

The Internet is cheaper than newspapers, because you can read many newspapers for free on their websites. The Internet is quicker to bring news and information out. It can take years for a book to be published and reach the bookstore. The information is often out of date. For me, the Internet is easier to use, because you can find information more quickly and easily than in a big library or in a big set of encyclopedias. You just use a search engine

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and the results come instantly. Transitions and Markers Finally, let's add some transition words and markers like " First", " Another point is that.. ," " Furthermore,.. " etc. Let's also not repeat " The Internet" every time.

Many people think that the Internet will replace books and newspapers because it is cheaper, quicker and easier to use. First of all, the Internet is cheaper than newspapers, because you can read many newspapers for free on their websites. Secondly, it is also much quicker to bring news and information out. It can take years for a book to be published and reach the bookstore. The information is often out of date. Another important point is that the Internet is easier to use, because you can find information more quickly and easily than in a big library or in a big set of encyclopedias. You just use a search engine and the results come instantly. Some companies reward employees for exceptional work by giving them extra money.

Is this a good way of encouraging employees to work hard? [pic] Money as a Motivator: Ideas Ideas You need at least three or four ideas to support whatever point of view you come up with. Money awards are effective; Money motivates people, and extra money motivates people to work extra Employees compete to raise productivity or standards It is not always possible to promote people, so money is a simple way to reward workers Money is acceptable for all workers – some may not appreciate a particular present, or some gifts may be insulting Money is only sometimes effective, or sometimes does not work: If employees are highly paid, money may not be sufficient.

They may prefer other benefits, such as an award ceremony or dinner, a club membership, a travel ticket, a car, a window office, etc Money may set employees against each other, leading to conflict in the office It may be difficult to determine the standard or basis for the decision to award the employee Employees may feel forced to compete Money is not effective: Employees work for a salary - they do not want to perform like circus animals if paid more Money trivializes work, which for many professional employees should be its own reward The amount may not bear relation to what the employee does If the employer finds it motivating to award money, perhaps the salaries are too low There are many other ways to motivate employees