

Argumentative Essay (How To Guide Writing An Essay Edition)

Pamphlet Master

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What is Argumentative Essay?

In this kind of essay, we not only give information but also present an argument with the PROS (supporting ideas) and CONS (opposing ideas) of an argumentative issue. We should clearly take our stand and write as if we are trying to persuade an opposing audience to adopt new beliefs or behavior. The primary objective is to persuade people to change beliefs that many of them do not want to change.

Choosing an argumentative topic is not an easy task. The topic should be such that

- it should be narrowed down
- X Marijuana should be considered illegal. (Not a good topic because it is too general. In some medical cases, marijuana is prescribed by the doctors and the patients are encouraged to use it in case of suffering from too much pain)
- ✓ Selling and using marijuana in public places should be considered illegal.
- it should contain an argument
- X We should decide whether we want a bicycle or a car. (our stand is not clear: do we support having bicycles or cars?)
- ✓ If we are under the age of 30 and want a healthy life, we should definitely get a bicycle instead of a car.
- it should be a topic that can be adequately supported (with statistics, outside source citations, etc.)

Formal vs. Informal Arguments

The difference between a formal and an informal argument is in the burden of proof. A formal argument clearly states the claim or position it argues and presents a well-developed chain of evidence leading to a reasonable conclusion supporting the claim. The chain of evidence itself may include a wide variety of elements ranging from personal experience to statistical data and expert testimony.

Informal arguments contain little or no supportive evidence. "I did the dishes last night" may be all that's necessary to encourage your roommate to do them tonight but it's hardly an argument designed to convince or persuade. Its primary purpose is merely to assert, or point something out, nothing more.

Informal arguments are the stock-in-trade of radio and TV talk-shows, op-ed pages and letters to the editor. Generally speaking, they're used to instigate discussion among individuals holding different opinions. Quite often they are used to provoke a confrontation between those who flat-out disagree with each other (e.g., The O'Reilly Factor and The Jerry Springer Show). Seldom do they end in a consensus of opinion or a reasonable conclusion.

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This Argumentative Essay study guide is created by Pamphlet Master for students everywhere. This tool has a comprehensive variety of college and graduate school topics/subjects which can give you what it takes to achieve success not only in school but beyond. Included in the pamphlet are: - What is Argumentative Essay? - Formal vs. Informal Arguments - Sample Argumentative Essay - Deductive arguments - Standard argument types - Inductive arguments - Defeasible arguments - Argument by analogy - Transitional arguments - Argument in informal logic - A

