

# The Argumentative Essay

## **Introduction Paragraph**

6-9 sentences

- a.) First 4-5 sentences - Introduce to introduce your topic and tell your reader the central focus of your essay.
- b.) Next 1-3 sentences - show both sides of the argument.  
“Some people are for this, and some people are against that.”
- c.) The last sentence (only ONE) - State your thesis in one clear sentence. Your thesis tells your reader your stance on the issue and three specific reasons why you feel the way you do about the topic.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Body Paragraph**

7-9 sentences

- a.) First 3-4 sentences – Provide an explanation of your first reason in your thesis statement. Your explanation should tell the reader why you believe in this reason, or why this reason makes you feel the way you do about the main topic.
- b.) Next 3-4 sentences – Give a specific example that illustrates your explanation of your first reason. This example can be about you, someone you know, something you read, something you watched, or something you witnessed ...but make sure it is ONLY one example.
- c.) The last sentence (only ONE) is the closing sentence.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Body Paragraph**

7-9 sentences

- a.) First 3-4 sentences – Provide an explanation of your second reason in your thesis. Start this paragraph with a transitional word or phrase.
- b.) Next 3-4 sentences – Give a specific example that illustrates your explanation. Make sure this is a different example from the one you used in your first body paragraph.
- c.) The last sentence (only ONE) is the closing sentence.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Body Paragraph**

7-9 sentences

- a.) First 3-4 sentences – Provide an explanation of your third reason in your thesis. Again, start this paragraph with a transitional word or phrase.
- b.) Next 3-4 sentences – Give a specific example that illustrates your explanation. Make sure this is a different example than the ones you used in your first two body paragraphs.
- c.) The last sentence (only ONE) is the closing sentence.

## **Conclusion**

5-8 sentences

- a.) First 1-2 sentence(s) – Restate your thesis statement (this is letter “c” from your introduction. Make sure that you rephrased your wording.
- b.) Next 3-4 sentences – Sum up all of your specific examples from all three of your body paragraphs.
- c.) Last 1-2 sentences – Provide your reader with one to two intelligent thoughts regarding your overall topic and argument.

## **Transitional Words/Phrases**

The following words/phrases (and others) can be used at the start of any paragraph after the introduction paragraph.

**Listing or Comparison Transitions:** First, second, third, finally, moreover, furthermore, in addition, also.

**Contrasting Transitions:** On the other hand, however, although, even though, despite, contrary to, opposite of/to.