

Aims of Today's Lesson (page.)



- Explain what is an argumentative essay.
- Learn how to develop an argumentative essay.
- Brainstorm about a controversial issue.
- Develop an argument & an outline
- Learn expressions for concession and contrast.
- Write a an argumentative essay.
- Revise an argumentative essay.

An Argumentative Essay



An argumentative essay:

- Is used to persuade readers to change their minds about something.
- In this kind of an essay, writers must convince readers of their point of view.
- To argue about an issue, you must:
 1. Discover all the different sides of the issue and which view point you agree with.
 2. You must clearly understand what the opposing viewpoint is.

Determining the Opposing Viewpoints Exercise



- Determine the opposing viewpoint for each of the following:
 1. Early childhood education prevents later criminal activity.
 2. Parents should impose rules for their teenage children about the use of the internet.
 3. Doctors do not provide adequate pain management for ER patients.
 4. Television adversely affects children.

* Activity 2, page 189.

Thinking Critically: Recognizing Provable Statements



- Writers often make controversial statements about social issues. To think clearly about an issues, you must know which statements are provable (facts) and which are unprovable (opinions).
- Provable statements can be supported by examples, statistics...etc. They are more powerful in argumentative essays.

Citing Authorities



- In argumentative essays, it is *necessary* to support your point by referring to an expert in the field (an authority).

Three ways to cite authorities:

1. X (says, claims, alleges, believes, asserts,...) that ...
2. By paraphrasing.
3. By using direct quotes. (go back to page 90)

* see page 196

Exposing weaknesses in opposing arguments



- When you write a persuasive essay, you want to present and support your argument.
- You also want to expose weaknesses in the counterargument.
- You can do this is by predicting the results of the counter argument.
 - One way to do this is through conditionals, like ‘if’
 - Another way to do this is by using relative clauses.

* see pages 197/198

Important points for Organizing and developing your essay



1. **The introduction:** gives background information on the issue, and presents the controversy.
2. **The argumentative thesis:** take a stand about the topic.
 - Remember that the audience disagrees with you, and you are trying to change their mind.
 - Also keep in mind that you must be logical and respectful.
3. **The Support: Know what you are up against.**
 - Support your arguments by giving reasons, facts, and citing authorities.
 - Think what reasons your opponents might use to support their arguments, and refute them.
4. **The conclusion:** an argumentative essay usually ends by Summarizing the argument + emphasizing your point or calling for action.

Organizing and developing your essay



- Well-developed paragraphs include a general statement supported by specific information and details, and examples.
- **Summarizing:**
 - In an argumentative essay, you may need to summarize something someone else has written.
 - A summary is shorter but contains all important ideas.
 - **Paraphrasing** is important when summarizing.

Organizing a Summary-and-Reaction Essay



- See page 204

Writing Task:

Write an argumentative essay on one of the Crime and Punishment topics discussed in class. You must use either a traditional argumentative essay, or a summary and reaction essay.