

Tips for Developing an Argument for Your Term Paper

Use one of the two rubric forms to help you draft the argument/thesis statement for your paper. These rubrics are intended as aids and you are not required to use them to prepare your paper.

Example topics:

***Note: These are TOPICS, they are not thesis statements that act as an argument for a paper**

- The impact of the automobile industry crash on employment and health in Southern Ontario
- Effects of climate change on traditional ways of life in Nunavut
- Rebound of the fishing stock in Atlantic Canada and its potential impact on cultural and economic life
- Growth of large-scale fly-in resource extraction operations and impact on the economic and social life of local aboriginal communities

List your own potential topics here:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Pick the topic that most interests you and work through one or both of the rubrics on the next pages to help develop an argument for your paper!

Rubric form #1:

WHAT	The topic	
HOW or BECAUSE	The means by which the topic is examined (so using examples, themes, key images, etc.)	
WHY	YOUR interpretation of the topic; so what is the significance of looking at it your way? Answer the question “so what?”—why is this argument important?	

Rubric Form #2

Simple Statement	Roadmap statement	Complex statement
Ex. The homeless population is well served in Ottawa. Enter your idea below:	Ex. The homeless population is well served because the services are appropriate, located in accessible locations.	Ex. The homeless population in Ottawa is well served because the services are appropriate, located in accessible locations, with the effect of reducing rates of homelessness over time....