**Unit 4 Essay Structure**

**Activity 1: Reading - The Structure of Argumentative Essays**

In this course you will be writing an argumentative essay. Below is the typical structure of such an essay, though it can also be written without the Counter Argument and Refutation.

In any essay you must have relevant and interesting background information to set the scene for the reader.

Note: A thesis statement is YOUR OPINION, i.e. whether you AGREE or DISAGREE with the issue. A thesis statement also gives your essay a purpose. It is essential in an argumentative essay.

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| --- | --- |
| **Introduction**  You must include a scope to indicate to the reader the main ideas you will cover in your essay. | **Background information, thesis statement, scope** |
| **Body 1**  These are also YOUR OPINIONS. Pro-arguments indicate to the reader which side you are on in the argument, e.g. are you FOR or AGAINST the issue? | **Pro-Argument 1 + supporting details** |
| **Body 2** | **Pro-Argument 2 supporting details** |
| **Body 3** | **Counter-Argument & Refutation** |
| **Conclusion**  The refutation is your COUNTER to the counter-argument! (You could also say that it is also a pro-argument.) You must include a refutation to respond to the counter-argument in the argumentative essay. | **Summary of arguments**  **Repetition of thesis** |

This is an argument that is the OPPOSITE of yours. For example, if you agree with the issue, the counter-argument DISAGREES with it.

**Activity 2: Introductions**

It can be useful to think of an essay Introduction like a funnel, with information arranged from most general to most specific:



Introduces the reader to the topic area, and explains why it is important

Narrows the focus

Gives writer’s standpoint on the specific topic

Most general background information

More specific background information

Thesis statement (for argumentative essays)

Scope /Overview

Provides an outline of what the paper will contain

**Activity 3: Brainstorming Practice – Arguments in an Essay**

Work by yourself or with a partner.

Choose 1 (or 2) of the following topic(s) and imagine you were writing an essay about it with TWO or THREE main arguments.

Note down some ideas for each category and remember to specify which country/culture it is.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Topic | ***Gay rights in X country/territory*** |
| General background |  |
| Specific background |  |
| Thesis |  |
| Scope (main arguments) |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Topic | ***Pollution (plastic bags/incinerators/waste) in (Hong Kong)*** |
| General background |  |
| Specific background |  |
| Thesis |  |
| Scope (main arguments) |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Topic | ***Mobile phone use in school/society in X country/culture*** |
| General background |  |
| Specific background |  |
| Thesis |  |
| Scope (main arguments) |  |