According to Keith Folse and Tison Pugh (2015), an argument essay is a writer’s “attempt to convince their readers to agree with them on a particular issue.” An argument essay persuades the readers to take (or to not take) an action in the future.

The topic should be interesting, but it is more important to develop your basic English language skills; to practice the basics of research, quotation, paraphrase, and citation; and to improve your academic and professional writing style.

One feature of the argument essay is that you should consider both sides of the argument. This doesn’t mean that you argue for both sides, but rather, that you acknowledge that there is an opposite side of the argument. The best essays briefly describe the opposing opinion and then tell the readers why the author does not agree with that point of view. There are always (at least) two sides to every argument. Acknowledge that truth, but then refute the other side of the argument.

We strongly encourage you to make full use of every stage of the writing process (prewrite, outline, draft, revise, proof). Research and plan your essay thoroughly before you begin to write. Remember to write concisely and use precise language. Write in active voice, and keep your sentence length under control. Read your paper out loud as part of the proofing process. Remember to keep a consistent point-of-view in your essay (we encourage you to write in the 3rd person point-of-view).

Pay attention to your paragraphs, as well. Do you have “run-on” paragraphs? If you change topics, indent and begin a new paragraph. Are all the sentences in your paragraph organized around a specific topic? If not, then revise the paragraph for internal unity.

We would like you to use at least four high-quality English-language sources. Use at least one direct quotation and three paraphrases of sources in your text. Properly introduce your quotations and paraphrases in the text, and cite your sources in APA format both in the text and in your reference page.

Your essay should be 900 to 1200 words (not counting the references).