

Guideline for Essay Classification

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Task

Thank you for participating in our discourse annotation study. In this study, we aim to annotate argumentative essays written by students. However, students sometimes go off topic and write anecdotal episodes, and their texts cannot be regarded as argumentative essays. Your task is to read each essay given to you, and then classify each of them as argumentative or non-argumentative.

Argumentative vs. Non-argumentative Essay

Generally, an argumentative essay can be divided into three main parts: **introduction**, **body** and **conclusion**. Figure. 1 shows an illustration. The **introduction** part typically presents a general background about a discussion topic. It also contains a main claim that begins the argumentation. The main claim is the essay author's general stance towards the discussion topic. Since argumentative essays aim to persuade the readers to adhere to their main claim, supporting and attacking opinions follow in the **body**. Finally, the **conclusion** part sums up the entire argument, most often, by restating the main claim.

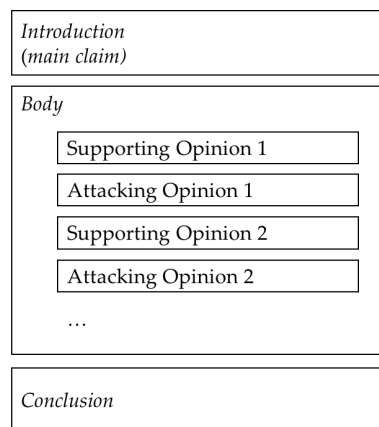


Figure 1. General structure of an argumentative essay

An **argumentative essay** contains at least two parts: **introduction-body** or **body-conclusion**. In the absence of the **introduction** part, we can find the main claim of the text in the **conclusion** part. It is because a concluding statement is typically a restatement of the main claim and thus, they are treated as an equivalence class. A text that does not contain at least those two parts is regarded as **non-argumentative**.

Work Procedure

You are given “`essay_classification_form.xls`” alongside this guideline. Fill in your decision on the essays classification in that form. Figure. 2 illustrates the form.

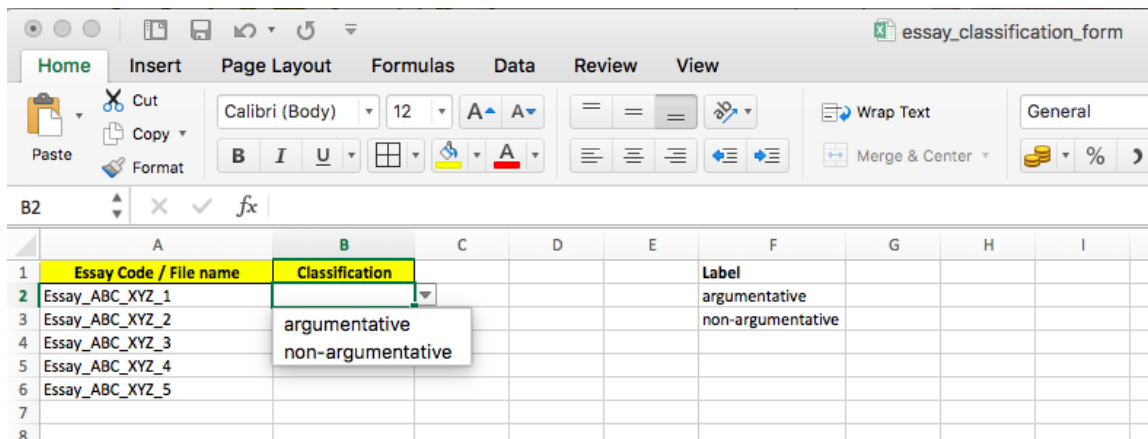


Figure 2. Essay Classification Form