

## ENGLISH 105: Sample Argumentative Essay

Format: 5 Paragraph Essay

1. INTRODUCTION (with Thesis)
2. PRO-1 (with Topic Sentence)
3. PRO-2 (with Topic Sentence)
4. CON and REFUTATION (with transitions)
5. CONCLUSION (Restatement or Summary)

**Topic:** Read it carefully, note the key terms and how they are related.

**Pre-Writing:** Pro points should agree with the topic, and the cons oppose, unless the topic is open.

**Title:** Should be different from given topic.

**Intro:** General to specific (funnel) pattern most common, but other options are available.

**Thesis:** Derive it clearly from given topic, and be unambiguous in taking a side.

**Topic Sentences:** State the main idea (from pre-writing) clearly in the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence of the pro paras.

**Transitions:** Sequential ones usually work the best in the pro paras (2 & 3), and contrastive ones in the con + refutation para (4).

**Development of points:** Develop the topic sentence through examples, illustration, explanation (often of a process), and sometimes comparison/ contrast.

**Also:** Indent the 1<sup>st</sup> line of all paragraphs.

Avoid fragments unless intended.

Capitalize correctly.

Keep the pronouns consistent...

... And subjects in agreement with verbs.

Don't misspell common or key words.

Don't use apostrophes for plurals.

### Topic: *Burgers are better than pizzas for quick meals.*

[Pre-writing/Brainstorming]

#### PROS

Burgers are more cost-effective  
... More widely available  
... Quicker to eat  
... More filling when hungry

#### CONS

Pizzas are tastier, with more variety/options  
... Fresher, being usually baked before serving  
... Usually have less fat and calories per serving  
... More fun to eat with friends – a “sharing” food

### Pizza Heaven

The world today, with its hustle and bustle, has developed food items which match its pace. Fast food is convenient, filling, quite cheap, and of course pretty quick to eat. But which one of the many kinds is the best? We get quickly tired of food which comes up short in taste, convenience, or value, so it is useful to figure out which is the most worth it. If we apply the question to burgers and pizzas, the most popular of fast foods which are known everywhere, pizzas win the prize for satisfying our appetites with the best and the most.

First of all, pizzas are tastier than burgers. Of course many people will have different views, but burgers, no matter what is stuffed between the two buns, have a kind of generic taste – this can be decent, but not anything to get excited over. Pizzas, in contrast, can really tickle your taste-buds with different sensations. That is because the toppings on the base, from anchovies to zucchini, can be really varied both in quantity and kind. Even the base itself can vary in flavor, texture and thickness. Pizzas are also usually served freshly baked, so the flavors stand out more and the ingredients are fresher and so tastier.

Secondly, pizzas are better for your health than burgers. In spite of the cheese, the total fat of a typical serving of pizza is noticeably less than a burger's. And less fat means less calories, which is good for the average consumer of fast food, whose diet tends to be overstuffed with calories. Then when you consider the different toppings, the nutritious veggies and other savory tidbits, and contrast that with the soggy lettuce and tired tomatoes which are the usual accompaniment of the greasy meat and bland cheese in a burger, the pizza wins hands-down in the health stakes.

Now, some folks argue that burgers are better value for money. For the same price, two slices of pizza will barely make a dent in your hunger, especially if you're young and active, whereas a burger will replenish your energy and keep you going. However, the price differential between a burger and an equivalent serving of pizza is not that great, and not worth worrying about. Furthermore, given the better nutritional value and taste of pizza, you getting an advantage in quality, which would make pizza equivalent in value to burgers, if not better.

Fast food fanciers want quick and satisfying meals, but that doesn't mean they have to deny themselves taste and variety. With pizzas you get the best of both worlds, feeding your appetite but having a bit of enjoyment and sophistication in the process. Pizzalicious! (440+)

(by Shafqat Chaudhuri)