

Argumentative Essay



**For good ideas and true
innovation, you need human
interaction, conflict, argument,
debate.**

Margaret Heffernan



ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

The argumentative essay
is a genre of writing that requires
you to:

1. investigate a topic;
2. collect, generate, and evaluate evidence; and
3. establish a position on the topic in a concise manner.



Argumentative Essay

Discussions are always better than arguments, because an argument is to find out *who* is right, and a discussion is to find out *what* is right.

Spirit Science

**NEVER ARGUE WITH
SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES
THEIR OWN LIES.**

PICTUREQUOTES.COM

Everyday Life Example

Claim

When we argue:

Bob: That was a lame movie!

Suzy: Why?

Evidence

Bob: The special effects were bad. The monsters were obviously fake.

Counterclaim

Suzy: I thought the movie was good because the acting was believable.

Bob's bad response: You are an idiot.

Refutation

Bob's good response: Yes the acting was good but the horrible special effects were too distracting and caused some awkward moments.



Difference between Persuasive and Argumentative Essay

A persuasive essay

- May make a claim based on opinion
- May not take opposing ideas into account
- Persuades by appealing to the audience's emotion or by relying on the character or credentials of the writer
- Emotion-based

An argumentative essay

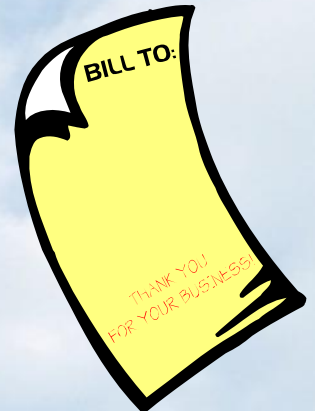
- Makes claims based on factual evidence (research)
- Makes counterclaims – the author takes opposing views into account.
- Neutralizes or “defeats” serious opposing ideas
- Convinces audience through the merit and rationality of the claim and proofs offered
- Logic-based

Elements of Argumentation

Argument/Claim

An **argument** states a **claim** and supports it with reasons and evidence from sources.

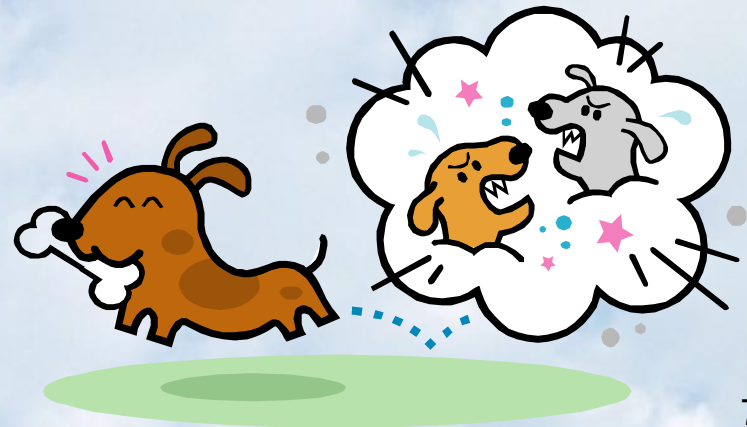
Arguing your side makes you the **proponent**.



Elements of Argumentation

Counterargument/Counterclaim

An argument that stands in opposition to your argument/claim. The counterargument is your **opponent's** (the other side's) argument that tries to explain why you are wrong.



Elements of Argumentation

Refutation

Simply disproving an opposing argument. It is an important skill because it is how a writer successfully convinces the audience of the validity of his/her own argument.



Why is Organization Important in Argument Writing?

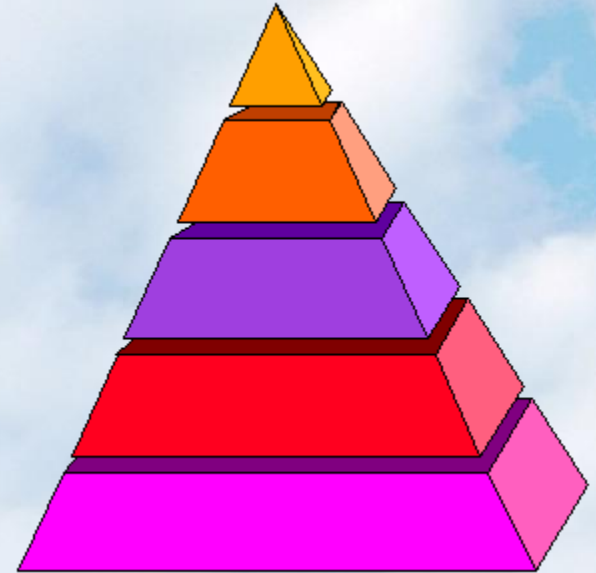
- Guides an audience through your reasoning process



- Offers a clear explanation of each argued point
- Demonstrates the credibility of the writer

Organizing Your Argument

- Title
- Introduction
 - Thesis statement
- Body Paragraphs
 - Constructing Topic Sentences
 - Building Main Points
 - Countering the Opposition
- Conclusion



Title: Why You Need One

- Introduces the topic of discussion to the audience
- Generates reader interest in the argument



Creating a Title

- Try to grab attention by:
 - offering a provocative image
 - picking up on words or examples offered in the body or conclusion of the paper
 - asking a question
- Avoid titles that are too general or lack character



What is an Introduction?

- Explains the reader with the topic and purpose of the paper
- Generates the audience's interest in the topic
- Offers a plan for the ensuing argument:
 - Introduction:** Tell them what you're going to tell them
 - Body:** Tell them
 - Conclusion:** Tell them what you told them

Discussion is an exchange of
knowledge; an argument an
exchange of ignorance.

Robert Quillen



Socrates



If thou continuous to take
delight in idle argumentation
thou mayest be qualified to
combat with the sophists, but
will never know how to live with
men.

AZ QUOTES

Thank you for attending my class.

