



Argumentative Essay (Hook)

An argumentative essay is...

An essay that takes a position on a controversial issue and tries to present evidence in favor of or against that position.

For Example...

Should vaccinations be required for students to attend public school?

Should there be laws against using cell phones while driving?

The structure of an argumentative essay is...

Introduction:	Thesis Statement & hook
Main Body:	Claim & evidence (Persuasion)
Opposition:	Opposition & refutation (Concession)
Conclusion:	Summary

A hook is...

The line or lines written to lure a reader or listener in and make them want to learn more. It's an introduction that's meant to grab hold of people's attention.

For Example...

"Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy

5 ways of using a hook...

1. Use quotations: Feature someone prominent.

For example, if the argument is that traveling is good for you.

"Travel is rich with learning opportunities, and the ultimate souvenir is a broader perspective."

Rick Steves

5 ways of using a hook...

2. Include Statistics: Feature striking statistics.

For example, if the argument is that drinking is bad for you.

According to a recent report from the CDC, alcohol poisoning kills six people every day in the United States. That same report also reveals there are over 15 million people currently struggling with alcohol use disorder.

5 ways of using a hook...

3. Pose Questions: Feature a thought-provoking questions.
Use open-ended not yes/no questions.

For example, if the argument is that smoking is bad.

“Why do people smoke even though they know it’s bad for them?”

5 ways of using a hook...

4. Metaphor or simile: Engage reader to think differently.

For example, if the argument is that blogs are good for business.

A business blog is like a magnet pulling clients to a company.

5 ways of using a hook...

5. Tell Anecdotes: Make sure the story directly connects with your topic.

For example, if the argument is that visiting foreign places can be full of surprises.

I got off the train and pulled my luggage behind me. A cab pulled up to the curb, and the driver got out. He lifted my luggage and said, "Miss, I'm just going to put your stuff in the boot." I didn't know what he meant until I saw him open the car's trunk. Then I realized the boot means car trunk. I got in the cab, wondering how many other words would be different in England.

What kind of hook is used ?

Put Your Faith in Science

In-class writing assignment – Hook

The Argument

As people rely more and more on technology to solve problems, the ability of humans to think for themselves will surely deteriorate.

For Example...

What would you do with your time, if everything you had to do before can be done by AI, such as cleaning the house, doing the laundry, or even cooking?



Argumentative Essay Thesis Statement

The structure of an argumentative essay is...

Introduction:	Thesis Statement & hook
Main Body:	Claim & evidence (Persuasion)
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Conclusion:	Summary

A thesis statement is...

one sentence that expresses the main idea of a research paper or essay, such as an expository essay or argumentative essay. It makes a claim, directly answering a question.

For Example...

“Americans should add exercise to their daily morning routine because it not only keeps their bodies at a healthy weight but also reduces the risk of high blood pressure.”

Before you write, you need to...

1. Choose a specific topic: Narrow subject matter down.
2. Select a related question: determine questions you want to investigate.
3. Answer the question: Think of ideas about the answer to the question.
4. Formulate thesis: modify the question and answer into a thesis statement.

Thesis Sample

Controversial Issue:

Some people believe it is often necessary, even desirable, for political leaders to withhold information from the public. Others believe that the public has a right to be fully informed. Who do you think is right? Why?

1. Choose a topic: The public should be fully informed
2. Questions: Why should they be fully informed?
3. Answer: Can make the right decisions for themselves.
4. Thesis: I believe that the public has the right to fully informed, because only by doing so, they can make the right decisions for themselves.

Good thesis VS. bad thesis

European travel is a good way to spend your summer, because it will make you happy.

BAD! not specific enough. Why is European travel good? Further examine the heart of your topic and focus on very specific areas of European travel that you can realistically cover and support with solid evidence.

Solo European travel is better for it requires independence which, in the end, bolsters personal confidence.

GOOD! This is much more specific and targeted. Now, you can hone in your research on solo travel through Europe, the need for independence, and its positive effect on personal confidence.

Good thesis VS. bad thesis

High levels of alcohol consumption are bad for you.

BAD! This is too broad. What are the specific detriments of alcohol consumption that you would like to discuss?

High levels of alcohol consumption have detrimental effects on your personal health, such as weight gain, heart disease, and liver complications.

GOOD! Notice we got very specific in our reasons why. In your thesis statement, you don't need to state every single detriment you're going to lay out, but you can point to the main areas you will explore.

In-class writing assignment – Thesis

Controversial Issue:

Some people believe that college students should consider only their own talents and interests when choosing a field of study. Others believe that college students should base their choice of a field of study on the availability of jobs in that field. Which do you agree with?

Pick a side: Talents and interests

For example...

College students should base their choice of major on their own talents and interests, because only by doing things they are interested in, can students gain a true sense of purpose and achieve real happiness in life.



Argumentative Essay Modes of Persuasion

The structure of an argumentative essay is...

Introduction:	Thesis Statement & hook
Main Body:	Claim & evidence (Persuasion)
Opposition:	Opposition & refutation (Concession)
Conclusion:	Summary

How to persuade others...

Aristotle's modes of persuasion

Ethos (ethical appeal)

Increase writer's
credibility and
authority

- Reliable source
- Personal experience
- References to
credible individuals

Pathos (emotional appeal)

Argument based on
reactions from the
readers

- Vivid language
- Examples/stories
- Imagery

Logos (logical appeal)

Factual proof,
evidence, and/or
reason

- Statistics
- Examples
- Cause and effect
- Syllogism ($A+B=C$)

How to use Ethos (Ethical Appeal)?

Important people or experts can make your argument seem more convincing.

Former U.S. president Bill Clinton thinks that junk food should be taken out of vending machines.

Using reliable research can help your argument seem convincing.

A recent study found that students who watch TV during the week don't do as well in school.

How to use pathos (Emotional appeal)?

Getting people to feel happy, sad, or angry can help your argument.

If you do this, you would have to tell your future child that he or she had a brother or a sister, but you never had the chance to get to know that person.

If people believe and trust in you, you're more likely to persuade them.

I had an abortion once, I can never forgive myself and I regret that decision every second of my life.

How to use logos (logical appeal)?

Facts, numbers, information, and logic can be very convincing.

A Snickers bar has 280 calories and 30 grams of sugar. That's the equivalent to eating 8 bowls of rice or 15 eggs.

The easiest way to show logic is by showing cause-effect.

Carbon dioxide traps heat from the sun in Earth's atmosphere. If we can reduce carbon dioxide, we can reduce greenhouse effect.

In-Class Writing: Persuasion

Use each of the three modes of persuasions to convince me that argument below is correct (1 or 2 sentences would be enough for each mode).

The argument

The best way for a society to prepare its young people for leadership in government, industry, or other fields is by instilling in them a sense of cooperation, not competition.



Argumentative Essay Concession Paragraph

The structure of an argumentative essay is...

Introduction:	Thesis Statement & hook
Main Body:	Claim & evidence (Persuasion)
Opposition:	Opposition & refutation (Concession)
Conclusion:	Summary

What are opposition and refutation?

Opposition: Respectfully acknowledge a point from the “other” side.

Refutation: Find something wrong with it.

Opposition and refutation

Your standpoint:

We should prohibit animal testing because animals can feel pain too.

Opposition: Without testing new drugs on animals, we cannot know the side effects.

Refutation: We can test on non-living cells and computer simulations.

Opposition and refutation

Opposition: Admittedly, ...
it is true that...
Some people may argue that...

Refutation: However,
But in most cases,...
On the contrary,

Practice: opposition and refutation (1/3)

Your standpoint:

During global pandemics such as COVID-19, it is better to have online classes.

Opposition: Face-to-face classes are more efficient than online classes.

Refutation: Online classes can be more efficient by using various online tools and software, which also make the teacher's job easier.

Practice: opposition and refutation (2/3)

Your standpoint:

Students shouldn't be allowed to use electronic devices in class because it is only a distraction.

Opposition:

It is more convenient for students to take notes on their laptops and iPad.

Refutation:

Writing things down on paper is the same thing.

Practice: opposition and refutation (3/3)

Your standpoint:

We shouldn't use plastic surgery to change our appearances because it could be dangerous.

Opposition: Looking more beautiful or handsome can give us a boost of confidence.

Refutation: Confidence always comes from within. Not all confident people are good-looking.

In-class Writing: Concession Paragraph

Write a opposition and refutation for the issue below.

Controversial Issue:

Some people believe that corporations have a responsibility to promote the well-being of the societies and environments in which they operate. Others believe that the only responsibility of corporations, provided they operate within the law, is to make as much money as possible. Which point of view do you agree with? Why?



Argumentative Essay Conclusion

The structure of an argumentative essay is...

Introduction:	Thesis Statement & hook
Main Body:	Claim & evidence (Persuasion)
Opposition:	Opposition & refutation (Concession)
Conclusion:	Summary

How to write a conclusion...

1. Summarize the main idea of your argument.
2. Restate your thesis statement (differently).
3. Go beyond!

How to restate your thesis

1. **Use different words:** Find synonyms for important words and concepts in your original thesis and replace them in your restatement.
2. **Change the structure:** The restatement should be different from the original thesis not only in its language but also in structure. This applies at the level of clauses (within sentences) and the overall sentence level.

How to restate your thesis

Thesis Statement:

Americans should add exercise to their daily morning routine because it not only keeps their bodies at a healthy weight but also reduces the risk of high blood pressure.

Restate:

Since exercise can help Americans maintain their body weight at a healthy level and lessen the risk of high blood pressure, they should try to exercise every morning.

How to restate your thesis

Thesis Statement:

College students should base their choice of major on their own talents and interests, because only by doing things they are interested in, can students gain a true sense of purpose and achieve real happiness in life.

Restate:

Only by doing things students are truly interested in will they be able to obtain a real sense of purpose and be truly happy in life. Therefore, college students should base their major on things they are good at and interested in.

How to restate your thesis

Restate the thesis below as a conclusion.

Studying abroad is one of the most culturally valuable experiences you can have in college. It is the only way to get completely immersed in another language and learn how other cultures and countries are different from your own.

One of the best way to be entirely engrossed in another language and, therefore, culture is to study abroad, which is, consequently, the most culturally valuable experience you can have in college.

How to go beyond...

1. The "So what?" Strategy
2. The "Rhetorical Question" Strategy
3. The "Thought-provoking Statement" Strategy

How to go beyond...

1. The Final "So what?" Strategy

You need to explain the significance of your basic assertion. This strategy allows you to leave readers with an understanding of why your argument is important in a broader context or how it can apply to a larger concept.

Sample Conclusion:

Alcohol abuse among students depends more on psychological factors than simply the availability of alcohol on campus,

So What?

So! Universities are not approaching alcohol education from the most effective perspective when they focus exclusively on limiting students' access to alcohol.

How to go beyond...

2. The “rhetorical question” Strategy

A rhetorical question is a statement formed as a question. Rhetorical questions can be manipulative because they are designed to appear objective and open-ended, but may actually lead the reader to a foregone conclusion.

Sample Conclusion:

School uniforms are necessary because they eradicate the visual differences in income between students and provide a more egalitarian atmosphere at school.

Rhetorical Question

With so many things going on in a teenager’s mind, wouldn’t it be better to have one less thing to worry about?

How to go beyond...

3. The “thought-provoking statement” Strategy

Your reader will probably wonder: "Why should I care?" By ending your conclusion with a broad statement that causes the reader to consider how to use the information you provided them with, you can help them answer this question. Use statement as a warning or call-to-action.

Sample Conclusion:

High levels of alcohol consumption have detrimental effects on your personal health, such as weight gain, heart disease, and liver complications.

Thought Provoking Statement (Warning):

These problems with organ failure such as the liver or heart would cost a fortune to fix and that would put a huge financial burden on your family.

In-class Writing: Conclusion

Write a conclusion (50 words) based on the thesis statement below.

(Remember to go beyond with one of the three strategies!)

Sample thesis:

Corporations should provide more work from home opportunities and six-hour workdays so that office workers have a better work-life balance and are more likely to be productive when they are in the office.



Summarizing & Paraphrasing

Summarizing V.S. Paraphrasing

Summarizing aims to reduce information to a suitable length, allowing the writer to condense lengthy sources into a concise form.

Paraphrasing means changing the wording of a text so that it is significantly different from the original source, without changing the meaning.

Study the stages of summary writing below, which have been mixed up. Put them in the correct order.

- A. Write the summary from your notes, reorganizing the structure if needed.
- B. Make notes of the key points, paraphrasing where possible.
- C. Read the original text carefully and check any new or difficult vocabulary.
- D. Mark the key points by underlining or highlighting.
- E. Check the summary to ensure it is accurate and nothing important has been changed or lost.

Correct order for a summary

C. Read the original text carefully and check any new or difficult vocabulary.

D. Mark the key points by underlining or highlighting.

B. Make notes of the key points, paraphrasing where possible.

A. Write the summary from your notes, reorganizing the structure if needed.

E. Check the summary to ensure it is accurate and nothing important has been changed or lost.

Exercise 1

Read a short excerpt from a journal. Then try to summarize the information by using the steps of summary writing.

Journal of Experimental Psychology

by Hewlett

Baboons are able to think abstractly. It has been known for some time that chimpanzees are capable of abstract thought, but baboons are a more distant relation to mankind. In the experiment, we trained two baboons to use a personal computer and a joystick. The animals had to match computer designs which were basically the same but had superficial differences. The baboons performed better than would be expected by chance”.

Exercise 2

Read and compare the following summaries. Which one is the best summary?

(A) Hewlett stated in the *Journal of Experiment Psychology* that baboons had the ability to think in an abstract way. The animals were taught to use a computer, and then had to select similar patterns, which they did at a rate better than chance.

(A) Is the best summary

(B) Baboons are a kind of monkey more distant from man than chimpanzees. Although it is know that chimpanzees are able to think abstractly, until recently it was not clear if baboons could do the same. But Hewlett's research in *Journal of Experimental Psychology* has shown that this is so.

(B) Fails to describe the experiment

(C) According to recent article by Hewlett in the journal of Experimental Psychology, baboons are able to think in a abstract way. The article describes how researchers trained two baboons to use a personal computer and a joystick. The animals did better than would be expected.

(C) Fails to describe the most important part of the experiment

Remember! To avoid plagiarism, you must
acknowledge the source text

3 ways to acknowledge the source

1. By using adverbial adjuncts.

I.E. according to...

2. By using reporting verbs.

I.E. Dr. Frank states that...

3. By using nominalization.

I.E. Dr. Frank's assertion that...

Exercise 3

Try write a 50-word summary
for the following information.

Indian researchers are trying to find out if there is any truth in old sayings which claim to predict the weather. In Gujarat farmers have the choice of planting either peanuts, which are more profitable in wet years, or castor, which does better in drier conditions. The difference depends on the timing of the monsoon rains, which can arrive at any time between the beginning and the middle of June. Farmers, however, have to decide what seeds to sow in April or May. There is a local saying, at least a thousand years old, which claims that the monsoon starts 45 days after the flowering of a common tree, *Cassia fistula*. Dr Kanani, an agronomist from Gujarat Agricultural University, has been studying the relationship since 1996, and has found that the tree does successfully predict the approximate date of the monsoon's arrival.

Sample 50-word Summary

Indian scientists are checking ancient weather forecasting methods, such as the old saying that links the date of the monsoon to the flowering time of a local tree. This has been used by farmers to select either peanuts (for wet conditions) or castor (for dry). Dr. Kanani at Gujarat Agricultural University has found that the monsoon can be quite accurately forecast using the time of the tree's flowering.

Exercise 4

Try write a 20-word summary
for the summary you just did.

Indian scientists are checking ancient weather forecasting methods, such as the old saying that links the date of the monsoon to the flowering time of a local tree. This has been used by farmers to select either peanuts (for wet conditions) or castor (for dry). Dr. Kanani at Gujarat Agricultural University has found that the monsoon can be quite accurately forecast using the time of the tree's flowering.

Sample 20-word Summary

Recent Indian research confirms the accuracy of an ancient method of forecasting the monsoon's arrival used by farmers to choose crops.

Exercise 5

Try write a 50-word summary
for the following information.

Toto is a leading Japanese manufacturer of bathroom ceramics ware, with annual worldwide sales of around \$5 bn. One of its best-selling ranges is the Washlet lavatory, priced at up to \$5,000 and used in most Japanese homes. This has features such as a heated seat, and can play a range of sounds. This type of toilet is successful in its home market since many flats are small and crowded, and bathrooms provide valued privacy. Now Toto hopes to increase its sales in Europe and America, where it faces a variety of difficulties. European countries tend to have their own rules about lavatory design, so that different models have to be made for each market. Although Toto claims that its Washlet toilet uses less water than the average model, one factor which may delay its penetration into Europe is its need for an electrical socket for installation, as these are prohibited in bathrooms by most European building regulations.

Sample 50-word Summary

The Washlet is an expensive lavatory that is popular in Japan, with a range of special features. Its maker, the Toto company, is hoping to expand sales in the West, but different regulations about toilet design and electrical fittings make this a challenging goal.

④ Homework

1. Reading Assignment:

The City That Endures
Spotify Has a New Problem

Start looking for some articles!

2. Writing Assignment:

Pick a topic for your persuasive essay!