



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)
Opposition:	Opposition & refutation (Concession)
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.



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.

Take a look at the two sentences below. What are some differences and similarities?

There has been much debate about the reasons for the Industrial Revolution happening in eighteenth-century Britain, rather than in France or Germany.

Why the Industrial Revolution occurred in Britain in the eighteenth century, instead of on the continent, has been the subject of considerable discussion.

Different structure + words

Same meaning + common phrases

Exercise 1

Read a short excerpt from a journal. Then try to paraphrase the information by using the three techniques below.

The causes of the Industrial Revolution

Allen (2009) argues that the best explanation for the British location of the Industrial Revolution is found by studying demand factors. By the early eighteenth century high wages and cheap energy were both features of the British economy. Consequently, the mechanization of industry through such inventions as the steam engine and mechanical spinning was profitable because employers were able to economize on labor by spending on coal. At that time, no other country had this particular combination of expensive labor and abundant fuel.

Techniques for Paraphrasing (1/3)

Changing vocabulary by using synonyms:

- argues → claims
- eighteenth century → 1700s
- wages → labour costs
- economize → saving

Techniques for Paraphrasing (2/3)

Changing word class:

- explanation (n.) → explain (v.)
- mechanical (adj.) → mechanise (v.)
- profitable (adj.) → profitability (n.)

Techniques for Paraphrasing (3/3)

Changing word order:

... the best explanation for the British location of the Industrial Revolution is found by studying demand factors.

A focus on demand may help explain the UK origin of the Industrial Revolution.

Sample Paraphrase

The causes of the Industrial Revolution

The reason why Britain was the birthplace of the industrial revolution can be understood by analyzing demand in the early 1700s, according to Allen (2009). He maintains that, uniquely, Britain had the critical combination of cheap energy from coal and high labor costs. This encouraged the adoption of steam power to mechanize production, thus saving on wages and increasing profitability.

Exercise 1: Find synonyms for the words underlined. Rewrite the paragraph using these.

It is widely agreed that men and women think and act in different ways. Women appear to have better memories, better social skills and are more competent at multi-tasking. Men, in contrast, seem to focus better on issues and have superior motor and spatial skills, although clearly many people are exceptions to these patterns.

Exercise 1: Sample paraphrase

It is generally considered that males and females think and behave in different ways. Women seem to have superior memories, better social abilities and are more successful at multi-tasking. Men, by comparison, seem to focus better on subjects and have superior motor and spatial abilities, although obviously many people do not follow these patterns.

Exercise 2: Change the word class of the underlined words. Rewrite the paragraph using the changes.

These differences have been explained as behavior adopted thousands of years ago, when the men went hunting while the women stayed at home and cared for their children. But another approach is to see the behavior as a result of the way our brains function.

Exercise 2: Sample paraphrase

The explanation for these differences may be the way people behaved thousands of years ago, when men were hunters while women stayed at home as carers for their children. But another approach is to see the behavior as resulting from the way our brains function.

Exercise 3: Change the word order of these sentences, rewrite the paragraph so that the meaning stays the same.

Recent research into brain functioning by Ragini Verma's team at the University of Pennsylvania has used brain scans to compare 428 men and 521 women. They tracked the pathways of water molecules around the brain area, and found fascinating differences.

Exercise 3: Sample Paraphrase

The brain functioning of 428 men and 521 women has been compared using brain scans, in recent research by Ragini Verma's team at Pennsylvania University. Fascinating differences were found by tracking the pathways of water molecules around the brain area.

Exercise 4: Combine all three techniques to paraphrase this paragraph

The top half of the brain is called the cerebrum, and it is divided into a left and a right half. The left hemisphere is thought to be the home of logic and the right is the center of intuition. Dr. Verma found that with women most of the pathways went between the two halves, while with men they stayed inside the hemispheres. She believes that these results explain the gender differences in abilities, such as women's social competence compared to men's more intense focus on a limited area.

Exercise 4: Sample Paraphrase

The cerebrum is the name for the upper part of the brain, and this consists of left and right halves. It is believed that logic is controlled from the left half, while the right side deals with intuition. Dr Verma's research discovered that the female molecule pathways were mainly between the two parts, but the male pathways were generally within the halves. Her conclusion is that these findings are an explanation for differences in skills between the sexes, for example greater social ability in women in contrast to stronger male focus on single issues.



Writing Assignment

Argumentative Essay(Instructions)

- Based on the topic you have selected, write an argumentative essay with a clear **thesis, body, and conclusion**. (use details and examples)
- The essay should be at least **400** words.
- Please use all the **literary devices** we learned in class. (hook, Modes of persuasion, go beyond in conclusion, etc.)

Argumentative Essay (Grading Rubric)

You will be graded on:

- Whether your argument is **convincing**.
- Whether your essay has a clear **structure**.
- Whether you have used all the **literary devices**.
- Whether you used **details** to explain your points.
- Whether writing is **grammatically correct**.

Argumentative Essay (Submission)

Deadline for final essay is December 5th, 2022 (24:00)

Send it to my Email: 2455943146@qq.com

Title: Class #-name-student ID

Example: FL1105A.01-刘德华-PB12345678

I will **NOT** chase down the sender, if I don't know who sent it, there is no grade.