

Thesis Statement Examples

#1. Why Vaccinations Should Be Mandatory

Today, nearly 40% of American parents refuse to vaccinate their children due to a variety of unfounded fears. Vaccinations against diseases such as polio, rubella, and mumps, should be mandatory, without exception, for all children of the United States who wish to attend school, because these vaccinations are critical to the control and eradication of deadly infectious diseases.

#2. Government Surveillance Is Harmful

Government surveillance programs do more harm than good because they invade civil liberties, lead innocent people to suffer unfair punishments, and ultimately fail to protect the citizens that they are designed to safeguard. For these reasons, programs such as PRISM operated by the NSA should be discontinued.

#3 Financial Compensation for Organ Donors

People who sign up for organ donation freely give their hearts and other organs, but this free system limits the number of available donors and makes it difficult for recipients to access lifesaving transplants. Thus, organ donors should be financially compensated to produce more available organs and, at the same time, to decrease profitable, illegal organ harvesting activities within the black market.

#4. Our School Is Too Dependent on Technology

Our school's dependence on technology has caused students to lose the ability to think independently, which has caused a greater prevalence of mood disorders, memory loss, and loneliness. Because of the increase of dependency on technology in teens, educators should combat these issues by requiring students to participate in regular technology detoxes.

#5 School Officials' Should Fight Cyberbullying

Bullying has extended far beyond school and into cyberspace, even though these acts of aggression take place outside of school boundaries, school officials should have the authority to discipline students who engage in cyberbullying without fear of reprisal. By improving the online behavior of students through the implementation of character classes at school, it will decrease the number incidences of cyberbully-related suicide attempts.

#6 The U.S. Media Should Update the Depiction of Traditional Families

The United States media depicts the traditional family as being comprised of a mother, father, and children; however, this notion of the traditional family is outdated and can be harmful to children who look to this as the gold standard. Therefore, there is a great need to expand and redefine the definition of the traditional American family to include divorced and remarried parents, extended families living together, and families with same-gender parents in order to increase the overall sense of happiness and well-being among children whose families do not fit the antiquated mold.

#7 Student Loans Should Be Forgiven

Crippling student debt is stifling the growth of the United States economy because it inhibits graduates from being able to spend money on consumer goods and home purchases. To alleviate this obstacle, lenders should be required to forgive student loans in cases where students are unable to repay their debts, because it would aid in the growth of our economy by increasing tax revenues, unfreezing credit markets, and creating jobs.

#8 Foreign Aid to Africa Does Not Work

Sending foreign aid to African countries is doing more harm than good, and it should be discontinued, because this practice has caused African countries to become vulnerable to inflation, currency fluctuations, corruption, and civil unrest.

WRITING AN ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

Draw the **ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY** outline below:

SECTION 1: YOUR INTRODUCTION

Your introduction is where you _____
_____. It is made up of a _____
_____.

1. Your **HOOK** _____

_____.
2. **Background information** is _____
_____.

Here are **my guiding questions** that I need to ask myself:

~ **What**

~ **Who**

~ **Where**

~ **Why**

3. **THESIS STATEMENT:** It is typically _____
_____. This is where you _____
_____.

SECTION 2: DEVELOPING YOUR ARGUMENT

Developing your argument once you have _____
_____, it's time to _____
_____.

~ each claim should _____.
~ what matters is _____.

1. What is a **CLAIM**? A claim is _____
_____.

*I've made my claim, but _____

? This is _____ play.

2. What is **EVIDENCE**? For each claim you make, you _____
_____. Evidence is _____
_____. It is not _____
_____.

* the key thing is you need enough _____ to make your _____
_____ believable.

SECTION 3: REFUTING OPPONENTS' ARGUMENT

* you state _____ and then _____
_____.

* this is where you set the _____ that is full of _____ and
will _____.

SECTION 4: CONCLUSION

* In your conclusion, you _____:

1.

2.

** Closing with a _____
_____.

ADDITIONAL NOTES, IDEAS, or QUESTIONS:

Writing an Argumentative Essay

Nouns for those *in favor of*:

- Proponents
- Advocates
- Backers
- Defenders
- Supporters



Nouns for those *against*:

- Opponents
- Challengers
- Contenders
- Critics
- Rivals



Don't

- Don't write "**they**" without defining who "they" are.
- Don't write "**many people**" without defining who "many people" are.



Do

Use **strong action verbs** and **specific nouns**.

Use the Right Words to Argue Well

Effective arguments use effective vocabulary

The purpose of an argumentative essay is to sway readers to recognize your viewpoint as valid.

To accomplish this, you need to use the right words.

Stupendous Pro-Argument Verbs

Allege
Argue
Assert
Claim
Contend
Insist
Reason
Say
Show
State
Suggest

Awesome Counter-Argument Verbs

Challenge
Deny
Dispute
Doubt
Question
Refute
Reject

Some Example Sentences

★ Proponents of the Earl Grey laws **argue** in favor of banning Starbucks coffee in the United States.

★ Dr. R **asserts** that Starbucks should be closed down because "the coffee Americans drink at breakfast disturbs their sleep and makes them less productive."

★ Opponents of the Earl Grey laws **deny** that banning Starbucks would prevent Americans from drinking coffee.

★ Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz **challenges** the law saying, "Starbucks has a meaningful relationship with people that is not only about the coffee."

Statistics and Numbers Speak Louder than Words!



Incorporate hard numbers and statistics into your essay to **support** your argument.

Keep Yourself Out of It

- Do write in the third person
- Do cite experts
- Do include evidence
- Don't write "I" or "me"
- Don't insert opinion without facts
- Don't write "I think" or "I believe"



The truth is, readers don't care about what **you** think...



An argumentative essay looks at both sides of an issue and **refutes opponents' views**.



An argumentative essay takes a **firm stance on a topic**. This stance is outlined in the thesis.



An argumentative essay addresses an issue that is **interesting and debatable**.