

## Writing 122: Structuring the argumentative essay

### I. **Clever, interesting or catchy introduction** - *Possibly use research*

Anecdote, statistic, example, case study, quotation, what if?, describe a scenario, etc.

### II. **Serious introduction to topic – no research needed here, just your own words**

General information

Your specific topic

Your thesis: I will argue that \_\_\_\_\_.

The first main point that backs you up, summarized in one sentence.

The second main point that backs you up, summarized in one sentence.

The third main point that backs you up, summarized in one sentence.

Transition into your argument

### III. **Background information needed (optional, but will probably need research)**

Defining terms, explaining history, giving context of issue, and/or reviewing current status

### IV. **First main point that supports your thesis** - *Research to support*

Evidence, examples, and reasons to support

All logical, ethical, and emotional arguments in support

### V. **Second main point that supports your thesis** - *Research to support*

Evidence, examples, and reasons to support

All logical, ethical, and emotional arguments in support

### VI. **Third main point that supports your thesis** - *Research to support*

Evidence, examples, and reasons to support

All logical, ethical, and emotional arguments in support

### VII. **Opposition**

A fair, thorough, and reasonable summary of the opposition's main points.

*Use research here*

### V. **Refutation of opposition**

Opp's first argument – why it's wrong

*Use research or logic here*

Opp's second argument – why it's wrong

*Use research or logic here*

Opp's third argument – why it's wrong

*Use research or logic here*

### VI. **Serious conclusion**

A review of your thesis and best points

*Use research if it's needed; okay to summarize/synthesize all your research without citing it all again*

### X **Wrap up** *no research needed*

Unify the essay by revisiting something brought up in your introduction

Go beyond your essay