

Steps for Writing an Argument Essay

Step 1

Take a stand on the topic.

- Read the topic and choose a side of the issue.
- Write your opinion as a sentence.
- This sentence will become your thesis.

Sample Topic:

Topic: **Should** animals be used for scientific and medical research?

Your Opinion: Animals **should** be used for scientific and medical research.

Step 2

Brainstorm reasons that support your opinion (the thesis).

- a. Choose the best 2-3 reasons.
- b. Write each of these reasons as a topic sentence by stating your opinion and one reason for your opinion. Do this step for each topic sentence.

Sample Thesis: **Animals should be used for scientific and medical research.**

Sample Reasons:

1. It leads to cures for deadly diseases.
2. It determines product safety of medicines for human and animal use.
3. It has saved and will save human lives.

Sample Topic Sentence: **One reason why using animals for medical and scientific research is a good idea is that it leads to cures for deadly diseases.**

Step 3

Write down each topic sentence.

- a. Brainstorm supporting ideas for each topic sentence
- b. Be sure to include specific examples, facts, and details for each supporting idea.

Step 4

Write your 4-5-paragraph essay by using the ideas from your brainstorming activity as your guide.

Organization of an Argument Essay

I. Introduction

- Introduce the topic by giving background information that briefly explains the topic so that the reader will understand the topic to be argued. (3-4 sentences)
- Then add the thesis statement that clearly and strongly states your opinion concerning the topic. Writing a direct thesis by including the reasons in your thesis is optional.

II. Body Paragraphs

- Each body paragraph gives one reason that supports the opinion stated in the thesis.
- The body paragraphs should be ordered so that the strongest is last.
- Use transition signals to introduce the opinion + reason in the topic sentence such as:

[Your opinion]

The first reason why we should use animals for medical and scientific research is

[First reason to support your opinion]

because it leads to cures for deadly diseases.

III. Conclusion

- Use a transition signal for the conclusion such as: in conclusion, to conclude, etc.
- Restate the thesis in different words than you used in your introduction.
- Summarize your main points.
- End with final comment on the topic or a suggestion.

Sample Thesis and Topic Sentences based on the “The School Uniform Question”

Indirect Thesis:

School uniforms should be required in public schools for three reasons.

Topic Sentence – Body 1

First, wearing school uniforms would help make students' lives simpler.

Topic Sentence – Body 2

Second, school uniforms influence students to act responsibly in groups and as individuals.

Topic Sentence – Body 3

Finally, students feel equal when they are all wearing the same school uniform.

Conclusion-Restated Thesis:

In conclusion, there are many well-documented benefits to implementing mandatory school uniforms for students.