An *Argumentative Essay* proves a point to a specific audience using logic, reasoning, and appeals, all supported by factual evidence.

An *Argument Essay* has three parts:

- **The Issue**: This is the problem or controversy that the argument addresses. It is basically the topic of the essay.
- **A Position or Claim**: This is the particular point of view a writer has on the issue. There are always at least two points of view on an issue—pro and con.
- **Support**: These are the details that demonstrate your position is correct and should be accepted. Supports should be convincing and relevant to your position.

  There are two primary types of support:

  - **Reasons**: General statements that back up your claim
  - **Evidence**:
    - Facts (statements that can be verified as correct)
    - Statistics (facts expressed as numbers)
    - Quotations from authorities: (statements from experts on the topic)
    - Examples from personal experience

An *Introduction* for an *Argumentative Essay* should interest the reader in the issue and suggest why the issue is important.

A *Thesis Statement* for an *Argumentative Essay* should identify the issue and state your position on the issue.

A *Conclusion* for an *Argumentative Essay* should summarize key points and leave the reader with a final thought about the issue.
Checklist for an Argumentative Essay

- Have I included an effective title for my essay that grabs the reader’s attention and/or indicates what the essay is about?
- Have I included an introduction that effectively grabs the reader’s attention and introduces the issue I will be discussing?
- Have I included enough background information that any educated individual who had no or only limited prior knowledge about the issue would be able to understand what the issue is, why it is important, and why he/she should be concerned about it?
- Have I included a clearly stated thesis early in the piece that takes a reasonable stance on the issue?
- Have I adequately defined and/or explain key terms with which others may not be familiar or that may be misinterpreted and/or confusing?
- Have I adequately supported my argument with sufficient details and provided strong support (good reasons) for why someone should accept my thesis?
- Have I included examples to help illustrate my points when necessary?
- Have I accurately explained some possible objections to my position without oversimplifying and/or misrepresenting them?
- Is the organization of the essay clear?
- Are the paragraphs organized around individual topics?
- Is each sentence clearly stated, relevant to the topic currently under discussion, and clearly related to the sentences that precede and follow it?
- Have I used transitions where they are needed?
- Have I proofread my essay to ensure that errors have been omitted?
- Have I included an effective conclusion that restates my thesis and provides some concluding remarks, e.g., a call to action, a story illustrating the relevance of my argument, etc?