

Argumentative Essay Unit

Name: _____

Step One: Research the Topic

Step Two: Jot Notes

Step Three: Outline

Step Four: Rough Draft

Step Five: Editing

Step Six: Works Cited

Step Seven: Final Draft

Due Date: _____

This booklet will be graded as a part of your final product so please ensure it is completed and submitted with your final essay.

Step One: Select a Topic

When choosing a topic for an argumentative essay you must choose a topic that has two arguable sides and then choose a side of the issue.

Remember the two types of papers Mrs. Foley does NOT like:

Essays that are copied and pasted from the internet- these essays are worthless because they have none of the student in them.

Essays that have no research at all- these essays are submitted by students who believe they know everyone about a topic, so no research was conducted. These essays have too much of the student in them.

You need to find a topic that you find interesting and something you feel strongly about.

The following website includes a list of possible topics for you to consider:

<https://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/02/04/200-prompts-for-argumentative-writing/>

| Possible Topics | Argument to make/your position on the topic |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Once you've decided on a topic do a little research and use the attached jot notes sheet to keep notes.

Chosen Topic: _____

Step Two: Jot Notes

| Argument # | Notes |
|-------------------|--------------|
| | |
| | |

Step Three: Essay Outline

Write your outline using the template below. Be sure to list each of the key parts of your essay as well as main points you will include in each paragraph.

Step Four: Rough Draft: Now, use your outline to guide you in writing your first draft (on Google Classroom).

A useful thing to keep in mind is that rough drafts are better if you do not start and stop. You should try to get it all typed out in one sitting. In this manner, your essay will have better coherence and unity.

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Introduction: Topic Sentence General Statement Thesis Statement | |
| Body One: Topic Sentence Supporting Details | |
| Body Two: Topic Sentence Supporting Details | |
| Body Three: Topic Sentence Supporting Details | |
| Conclusion: General Statement Opinion Summary of key points | |

Step Five: Works Cited

A works cited page is basically just the final page of your essay which outlines where your research came from. If you found statistics or facts, the websites should be included for a reader to verify.

Argumentative essays should include a works cited page because an argument is more reliable if it is based in sound logic and fact. DO not use logical fallacies!!

Step Six: Editing

You are into the final step of your essay! The first FOUR steps were difficult. This last step requires you to take a break from your rough draft. Once you complete your rough draft, you should probably wait for a day before you begin re-reading your paper. Step 5 is not as much hard work as it is a shift in perspective. Up until now, your mind has been going in one direction on a particular topic. You now need to become objective –you need to be critical of what you have created and pretend that you are reading your essay for the first time:

- ✓ Will other people find your essay easy to read?
- ✓ Should some ideas be connected in a better way?
- ✓ Are there things that should be cut?
- ✓ Is there anything missing that should be added?
- ✓ Does it all make sense (coherence)?

After you have had a re-read of your paper, fix all your mistakes to create a **second draft**. Then, get someone from your class to act as,

EDITOR _____
[student editor's name]

You must give this editor your second draft. Editors have to turn this page over and complete the assessment questions after they read your research paper.

Editors should proofread with a pen, editing any mistakes they see. Finally, take into account your editor's suggestions to create a **third draft**. This will be your final draft for Mrs. Foley.

Step Seven: You now know the entire essay writing process! You will use this basic process all through the remainder of your secondary education (and post-secondary for those who keep going)!

Assessment Questions

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Whose essay is being evaluated? | Who is the editor? |
| What is the title of the essay? | |

Mrs. Foley will review the writing rubric with you. Use this 5-point scale to rate the following sections of the research paper:

1. What mark would you give the introduction? _____/5
2. Why did you give it this mark? (If below 5, what could they do to get 5)?

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3. What mark would you give to the body, with all its paragraphs, evidence and use of references? _____/5

4. Why did you give it this mark? (If below 5, what could they do to get 5)?

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5. What mark would you give to the conclusion? _____/5

6. Why did you give it this mark? (If below 5, what could they do to get 5)?
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