

Writing Your Argumentative Essay using Google Docs

WHAT IS AN ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY?

An **argumentative** or **persuasive** essay requires the person to take a stand on a particular topic, and support it with appropriate examples and evidence (FACTS).

- ✓ The attempt is to convince the reader of writer's point of view.
- ✓ The person is not trying to explore a research question but presenting their point of view.
- ✓ A person may present their insights, critical evaluations and other beliefs at the end of the paper to draw conclusions.

Step 1: Pick a Topic

1. We are increasingly dependent on computers. They are used in every component of our lives. What things will they be used for in future? Is this dependence on technology a good thing or should we be more suspicious of its benefits?
2. In what ways has Web 2.0, 3.0 and beyond changed work and working practices?
3. Cloud Computing refers to working and saving documents in a virtual world. Cloud Computing is growing and is expected to be common for most businesses in the coming decades. How do you think society will be affected by the growth of Cloud Computing?
4. Technology is making communication easier in today's world, but at the expense of personal contact as many people choose to work at home in front of a computer screen. What dangers are there for a society which depends on computer screens rather than face-to-face contact for its main means of communication?
5. Does technology make life more convenient, or was life better when technology was simpler?

Step 2: Decide which side you're on and then get Ideas and Gather Evidence

- One of your first objectives in your essay will be to present both sides of your issue with an evaluation of each. Are you for or against?
 - Of course, you will conclude that one side (your side) is the best conclusion.
- You will want to gather ideas and evidence. This requires research. You will need to find three online sources that either support or rebut your viewpoint.

Step 3: Write--SAVE THE WEBSITES YOU USED FOR RESEARCH, you'll make a works cited page at the end

- An argument essay should contain **3** parts: the **introduction**, the **body**, and the **conclusion**.
 - The length of these parts (number of paragraphs) will vary, depending on the length of your essay assignment.
 1. **Introduction**---Introduce your topic and assert your side
 - a. The first paragraph of your essay should contain a brief explanation of your topic, some background information, and a **thesis statement**. In this case, your thesis will be a statement of your position on a particular controversial topic.
 2. **Body**--Present both sides-- The body of your essay will contain the meat of your argument.
 - a. First --go into more detail about the two sides of your controversy
 - State the strongest points of the "other" side first.
 - b. After describing the "other" side, you will present your own viewpoints and then provide evidence to show why your position is the correct one.
 - Select your strongest evidence and present your points one by one.

- Use a mix of evidence types, from statistics, to other studies and anecdotal stories.
- 3. **Conclusion**-- end of the essay--Your conclusion 'wraps' up the essay.
 - a. It is the part that the reader may remember most. It should be clear and avoid confusing the reader.
 - Conclusion should do some or all of the following:
 1. rephrase the question
 2. summarize the main ideas
 3. give your opinion, if you haven't given it already
 4. look to the future (say what will happen if the situation continues or changes)
 - Do not put new information or important ideas in the conclusion.
- **Insert a Header**
 - Last Name and page number in the header for every page but the first—right aligned