

Solve the academic puzzle

Argumentative Writing

“Understanding how to express a rationale in any format is really vital, no matter what topic you're working on.”

Mariette DiChristina
Editor-in-Chief of Scientific American

Key steps to express a rationale in an argumentative essay

An **argument** is an opinion or claim supported by evidence. An **argumentative essay** aims to organise and present your conclusions with supporting evidence in order to persuade your audience.

When writing an argumentative essay:

- Your thesis statement should clearly state your opinion
- In the main body it is logical to present the opposing view first
- The conclusion of the essay should sum up all that the reader has read, restate the topic, and its important

Structure:

Introduction

Thesis statement, clearly state your views

Paragraph 2

Opposing or alternative views

Paragraph 3

Evidence or reasons supporting your views

Conclusion

Summary of both arguments and paraphrase of the thesis

Hints

Stating your point of view:

“It is my belief that...”
“This essay will argue that...”

Stating an alternative view:

“Another viewpoint is...”
“Others have argued that...”
“It can be argued that...”

Using evidence from another source:

“According to Smith (1995: 28),...”
“Smith (1995: 28) asserts that...”

Stating your concluding argument:

“In conclusion...”
“To sum up...”

Tips to build a strong argument

Any evidence you include should clearly strengthen your argument.

Avoid information that could potentially weaken your position.

References are a must for argumentative essay-writing as it adds authority to your arguments.

Avoid evidence that is related to the general topic but doesn't strengthen your argument.

Tips to use quotations in essays

Make sure the quotation integrates well with the content around it.

If you want to omit words from a quotation use an ellipsis (...)