

Writing an Argument or Opinion Paragraph.

Writing an argumentative or opinion statement paragraph is not a difficult task. There are some simple easy steps to consider / follow.

1. **Decide if you are 'for' or 'against' the idea.** Before you start writing, it is important to decide how you feel with the topic. Do you agree or disagree with it? In an opinion paragraph, it is better to select one side and stick to it, because you do not have the time or space to discuss both sides.
2. **Brainstorm ideas to support your opinion.** What are your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the issue? List as many reasons and examples as you can think of. As you start writing your paragraph, you will select the key ones to use.
3. **Eliminate the insignificant ones and keep the key issues.** Review the reasons and examples you wrote, are there any that do not really go with the issue. You only have a limited space to present your argument, so make sure you stick to the issue and don't go off on a rant or tangent.
4. **Begin Writing your Paragraph.** In a good argument / opinion paragraph, like any paragraph, there is a specific format to follow.

Paragraph layout:

- *Introduction - 2 to 3 sentences. Your introduction is very important. It should grab the reader's attention and provide them with your main idea / thesis statement. It should tell them your position on the issue. Your first sentence should be a hook / lead of some kind. Your next sentence should give us your thesis statement (your position on the issue that you are going to argue).*
- *Support 1 – 2 to 3 sentences – In your support section (which will make up most of your paragraph) you are going to provide the reader with your best reasons in your argument. Here you want to be very selective, so that you are giving them your strongest reasons. Each Reason should have an example or quote to go with it. You can also briefly explain the reason if you feel a need for it.*
- *Support 2 – 2 to 3 sentences. Second strongest reason with evidence to back it up.*

- *Support 3 – 2 to 3 sentences. Third strongest reason with evidence to back it up.*
- *Conclusion - 1 to 2 sentences. This is your paragraph's ending. It is your last chance to prove your argument. Often, it is the part that the reader will remember the most. It should be clear and avoid confusing the reader. No new information should be introduced in your final sentences. Your concluding sentence should bring the reader back to the main purpose of your paragraph, without being repetitive. You may also end with a look to the future (give a glimpse into what will happen if the situation continues or changes) or end with a powerful / inspiring quote which supports your overall position / argument.*

Total Sentence count – 9 to 14 sentences.

5. **Reexamine with a critical eye.** Read over your paragraph. Is there any way you can make it better? Have you created a strong, clear argument? Did you use powerful, persuasive word choice throughout your paragraph? Do you have examples / quotes to back up your reasons? Is your punctuation, spelling and grammar error free? You will only have one opportunity to present your opinion, have you done the absolute best job you can do sharing how you feel about the issue?

Example: https://patternbasedwriting.com/elementary_writing_success/paragraph-examples/

Argue: I am going to present a logical ARGUMENT as to why my neighbor should attend the school fair.

The school fair is right around the corner, and tickets have just gone on sale. Even though you may be busy, you will still want to reserve just one day out of an entire year to relax and have fun with us. Even if you don't have much money, you don't have to worry. A school fair is a community event, and therefore prices are kept low. Perhaps, you are still not convinced. Maybe you feel you are too old for fairs, or you just don't like them. Well, that's what my grandfather thought, but he came to last year's school fair and had this to say about it: "I had the best time of my life!" While it's true that you may be able to think of a reason not to come, I'm also sure that you can think of several reasons why you must come. We look forward to seeing you at the school fair!