

Name: _____

Outline for argumentative Essay.

There is an ongoing debate in the United States about _____.

_____ (insert a background sentence to inform your reader about the issue)

_____ has many positives and negatives in American society. In comparing the pros and cons, _____ offers more _____.

Support: Use article to find reasons to support your claim. Cite or rephrase.

Reason 1: _____

Reason 2: Furthermore, _____

Reason 3: In addition, _____

Counter claim: Use article to show the other side. MAKE IT WEAK! Cite or rephrase.

Reason 1. On the other hand, _____

Reason 2. Also, _____

Reason 3. Finally, _____

******* you can use words like, "Although, but, or however" to make your case stronger.**

In conclusion, _____ has both positive and negative effects on society. After careful analysis, _____ offers more _____.

Add a "Big Picture" statement, if possible. (example: Children's safety is more important than money.)

Argument Essay Organization Challenge

Complete Essay

There was a time when summer vacation was stress-free; it meant endless lazy days, sitting on the porch and watching the bees pollinate the flowers. It did not mean attending school and having homework. Year-round schooling requires students to attend school for 12 months, with short vacations that occur at varying intervals. Twelve month programs are not a good idea; the educational benefits do not outweigh the high costs involved, and summer vacation is critical to a child's learning and development.

First, year-round schooling is expensive, due to air conditioning, maintenance, and staffing; yet it does not lead to significant academic improvement. According to *The New York Daily News*, when Jefferson County, Colorado, moved to a year-round schedule, test scores actually declined. The district was then forced to spend an additional 93 million dollars to go back to a traditional calendar. Additionally, one school district in Prince William County, Virginia, saw no educational improvements after nine years with a year-round schedule. According to the Supervisor of Programs in Prince William County, "There were not enough advantages to outweigh the disadvantages." Therefore, year-round schooling was just not worth the expense. If the investments do not lead to improvements in student learning, they are not cost effective.

Another reason there should not be year-round school is because summer activities are critical to a child's learning and development. According to Dr. Leo Wisebender, psychologist for the Los Angeles Unified School Program, "Children learn many things outside of school. It's a different type of learning, which simply is not tested." Children in year-round programs would be missing out on opportunities to discover talents and interests that are not taught in schools. Furthermore, younger children would not be able to attend camp programs, and teenagers would miss out on summer employment opportunities. The ongoing demands of school would interfere with these valuable leisure and work experiences. Summer activities enhance a child's overall growth and development in a way that school cannot.

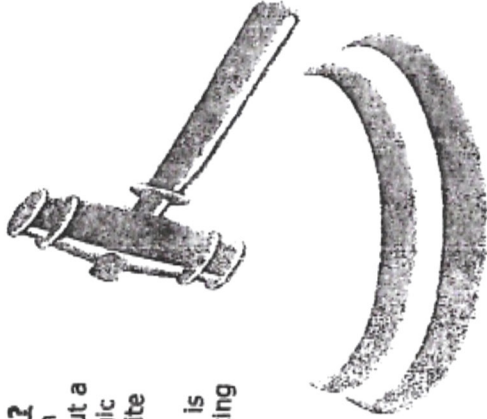
Some people claim that year-round schooling reduces summer learning loss. Nevertheless, summer vacation allows students an opportunity to learn about important topics that are not related to school. Critics of a traditional schedule are not taking into account all of the opportunities young people will be missing out on.

Year-round schooling would not be beneficial in any way. It has been proven that a year-round schedule does not lead to academic improvement, and it does not allow students to develop interests outside of school. Children should be our nation's first priority, and they deserve long periods of stress-free time, as well as the opportunity to explore the world outside of school.

Argumentative Essay Terminology

What is argumentative writing?

Argumentative writing is writing in which a writer makes a claim about a topic and then supports it with logic and evidence. Learning how to write an effective argument is key to learning critical thinking skills and is an important part of "school" writing and real life.



How does it differ from persuasive writing?

Persuasive writing also involves making a claim. However, the supporting details are based on feelings and emotions.

Term	Definition
argument	Making a claim and supporting it using logic.
persuasion	Making a claim and supporting it using feelings and emotions.
claim	The position that you are trying to get your readers to accept.
evidence	Facts that support your claim.
bridge/warrant	Statement that explains how the evidence supports and connects to the claim.
counterargument	Challenging the argument by addressing the position of someone who may not agree with the argument.
turn-back/refutation	Demonstrating why the counterargument is wrong.
audience	Who will be affected by the topic? Who will read the essay?

Organizing the Argument Essay

For an argument essay to be effective, you must organize your ideas, provide solid supporting evidence, and present the information clearly. Let's take a look at how that's done.

An argument essay is usually at least 5 paragraphs. It requires an introductory paragraph, at least 3 body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph.

Introduction

The first paragraph is where you will hook the reader and state your claim. The claim is the thesis statement.

Body Paragraph #1

This paragraph introduces the first reason that your claim is valid. Support it with evidence, such as facts, examples, and data.

Body Paragraph #2

This paragraph introduces the second reason that your claim is valid. Support it with evidence, such as facts, examples, and data.

Body Paragraph #3

The paragraph should introduce an opposing claim, which is the counterargument. It also includes the turn-back, which takes the reader back to your claim and position.

Conclusion

The last paragraph restates the thesis statement and summarizes the main idea of the argument. It also contains a strong concluding statement.

Writing the Introductory Paragraph

The **introduction** to your essay has three parts and purposes.

- 1) **Lead:** The lead "hooks" readers and encourages them to keep reading. Try one of the following:

Lead	Example
Quote (by a famous person)	President Obama once said, "During the summer, students are losing a lot of what they learn. A longer school year makes sense."
Unusual Detail	According to historians, American farm children once attended school from December to March and mid-May to August.
Statistic or Fact	Experts say that during the summer, students lose approximately 22 percent of what they learned during the school year.
Strong Statement	Students must attend school; a shorter school year is comparable to child neglect.
Question	Are most Americans satisfied that compared to their peers in Europe and Asia, American students score lower on achievement tests?
Anecdote	There was a time when summer vacation meant endless lazy days, sitting on the porch, and watching the bees pollinate the flowers.

- 2) **Introduce the issue:** Briefly explain the issue and the controversy surrounding the argument. Give background information.

Ex. Much to the public's dismay, summer vacations are in jeopardy in America, as the Secretary of Education pushes forward with a movement to extend the school year.

- 3) **State your claim:** This is the **thesis statement**. It is a promise to the reader that the essay will address the argument and prove the claim. Use one of these key words to form the thesis:

***Reasons *Benefits *Advantages or Disadvantages**

Ex. There are definite advantages associated with switching to a year round school schedule in the United States.

Writing the Body Paragraphs

Body paragraphs #1&2: Support the thesis statement/claim.

- 1) Start with a **topic sentence** that introduces a **reason** people should be convinced by the argument.

Ex. In order for students to improve academically, and avoid "summer slide," American students should attend school year round.

- 2) Then include **specific evidence** to support the **thesis statement** (the claim). Use **facts, examples and statistics** to back up the claim.

Ex. For example, Balsz, a district in Arizona, saw reading test scores go up from 51 percent to 65 percent after extending the school year by 20 days.

- 3) Follow each piece of evidence with a **bridge** to explain how the evidence supports the claim.

Ex. This significant increase proves that students benefit by having more time in school.

- 4) Close with a **concluding sentence**.

Ex. It is possible to improve student test scores by requiring more days in school.

Text-reference and transition words and phrases to use in the body paragraphs:

First,	Finally,
For example,	Particularly,
Furthermore,	Specifically,
Therefore,	Due to
According to	
	Also,
	Above all,
	Additionally,
	Consequently,
	For instance,

Writing the Counterargument Body Paragraph

Body paragraph #3: Writing the opposing argument.

- 1) The opposing argument, called the **counterargument**, proves that you fully understand the topic, and that you are fair-minded.

Transition words and phrases to use in the counterargument:

It might seem that Of course, Certainly	It's true that One might object At first glance,	Admittedly, While Some people claim
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- 2) The **turn-back** is a return to the original argument. Be sure to refute the opposing claim.

Transition words and phrases to use in the turn-back:

Yet, Still	Despite Except	However, Conversely,	Nevertheless, Even so,
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Ex. Some critics of year round school say that the real results of studies that seem to show score increases in year round schools are inconclusive, and it is difficult to pinpoint the real reason for the increases. However, there is no doubt that students in Europe, where there is year round school, outperform American students on achievement tests.

Writing the Concluding Paragraph

The **concluding** paragraph is important, as it must close the issue by showing that the topic has been covered thoroughly. It should also provide an idea as to how people should be warned about the topic, or how they can benefit from the position argued.

- 1) Begin by restating the thesis statement or claim.

Ex. Year round school is the answer to the economic and educational problems in the United States.

- 2) Then, present one or two sentences that summarize the reasons and evidence.

Ex. A year round schedule will prevent students from losing the hard earned knowledge gained during the school year.

- 3) Finally, provide a benefit that will result from complying with or heeding the argument. Or provide a call to action to move the audience into wanting to make a change.

Ex. The nation's future depends upon having intelligent citizens. Schools must be year round in order to graduate such citizens.

General Tips

Do	Do Not
Use strong, convincing language.	Weaken your argument by using "I believe" or "I think."
Use reliable websites for research.	Make up "facts" or statistics.
Use 2-3 facts, examples, and/or statistics per body paragraph.	Rely on personal experiences.
Be respectful of those who disagree with your position.	Insult those who disagree.

Argumentative Essay tips:

- Before you begin, write down at least 3 positive points and 3 negative points
- Begin your introduction by making a general statement about the overall current controversy.
- Write a background sentence explaining what/why/where this debate is
- You must write a statement taking one side of the argument (Do not use "I")
- Second paragraph should support the side of the argument in which you agree.
- Give 3 facts from the article that support your side.
- Third paragraph must show the other side to the argument- but WEAKER!
- Can start with "However" or "On the other hand"
- Give 2 or 3 facts that show the other side of the argument - but try to debunk them. You want to win the argument, so make these weaker or show how they wouldn't work.
- Conclusion- restate your argument and position
- Make a general statement about why it is/is not a good idea
- Try to relate the topic to a "bigger picture" (e.g. "Advertising on School buses" can relate to the bigger picture "separating our most precious resource for a quick buck" or "money is not as important as children's safety")

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