

Essay (Outline) Sample

I. Introduction

- a. Your introductory paragraph sets the stage or the context for the position you are arguing for.
- b. Provides background information
- c. This introduction should end with a thesis statement that provides your claim (what you are arguing for) and three arguments reasons your position on the issue.
- d. Should be clearly stated and often contains emphatic language (should, ought, must)

II. First Argument

- a. Reasons or evidence to support your Claim
- b. This is the heart of your essay. Generally, you begin with a general statement that you back up with specific details or examples. Depending on how long your argument is, you will need to devote one to two well-developed paragraphs to each reason/claim or type of evidence.
- c. Types of evidence include:
 - i. first-hand examples and experiential knowledge on your topic (specific examples help your readers connect to your topic in a way they cannot with abstract ideas)
 - ii. Opinions from recognized articles with proper citations

III. Second Argument

- a. Reasons or evidence to support your Claim
- b. This is the heart of your essay. Generally, you begin with a general statement that you back up with specific details or examples. Depending on how long your argument is, you will need to devote one to two well-developed paragraphs to each reason/claim or type of evidence.
- c. Types of evidence include:
 - i. first-hand examples and experiential knowledge on your topic (specific examples help your readers connect to your topic in a way they cannot with abstract ideas)
 - ii. Opinions from recognized articles with proper citations

IV. Third Argument

- a. Reasons or evidence to support your Claim
- b. This is the heart of your essay. Generally, you begin with a general statement that you back up with specific details or examples. Depending on how long your argument is, you will need to devote one to two well-developed paragraphs to each reason/claim or type of evidence.
- c. Types of evidence include:

- i. first-hand examples and experiential knowledge on your topic (specific examples help your readers connect to your topic in a way they cannot with abstract ideas)
- ii. Opinions from recognized articles with proper citations

V. Conclusion

- a. The conclusion should bring the debate to a logical end. It should explain what the importance of your issue is in a larger context. Your conclusion should also reiterate why your topic is worth caring about.
- b. Some arguments propose solutions or make prediction on the future of the topics
- c. Summarized with a social theory

VI. Works Cited Page

- a. A minimum of three citations from articles must be utilized