



Argumentative Essays (for and against)

With these essays you are given a topic to relate to by presenting an objective picture by showing both the advantages and disadvantages. **You should, however, express your personal opinion in the closing paragraph.**

Argumentative Essays consist of 4 paragraphs:

Paragraph 1: Write an introduction where the topic is presented.

Paragraph 2: Present supportive arguments. Back up your arguments with reasons, facts and examples.

Paragraph 3: Present opposing arguments. Back up your arguments with reasons, facts and examples.

Paragraph 4: End with a strong conclusion and state your opinion.

Tips for Writing Argumentative Essays:

1. Make a list of the pros and cons in your plan before you start writing.
2. Choose the most important that support your arguments (the pros) and the most important to refute (the cons) and focus on them.
3. Use facts, statistics and examples to convince your readers of your arguments.
4. Use good transition words when moving between arguments and most importantly when moving from pros to cons and vice versa.

- While I have shown that.... other may say...
- Opponents of this idea claim / maintain that..
- Those who disagree claim that ...
- While some people may disagree with this idea...

When you want to refute or counter the cons you may start with:

- However / Nonetheless / In spite of / Despite...
- On the one hand... On the other hand...

If you want to mark your total disagreement:

- After seeing this evidence, it is impossible to agree with what they say.
- Contrary to what they might think ...
- After examining the aforementioned points, it is clear that the advantages (or disadvantages) of... far outweigh the disadvantages (or advantages)...



Example: **Do you think computers are a blessing or a curse?**

Write a composition giving reasons for and/or against using computers.

Almost every home, office or school has a computer of some kind these days. Many people feel that these machines are now an essential part of our lives, but how necessary are they really?

On the one hand, one of the main advantages is the time that can be saved by using a computer. This is especially beneficial in the workplace, where employees can do their work far faster than they could in the past. In addition to this, computers can be educational and fun. From a very young age children can gain basic computer skills through programs that allow them to learn, draw, paint and play. In today's technological world, this knowledge can only help them in the future.

On the other hand, there are various negative aspects to using computers. First, many jobs have been lost due to the fact that computers can do a lot of tasks more efficiently than humans. This has led to high unemployment in many countries. What is more, computers can actually cause health problems. That is to say those endless hours in front of a screen can cause eye strain and headaches, which are serious side-effects.

To sum up, after examining the aforementioned points, it is clear that the advantages of using computers far outweigh the disadvantages. In other words, the importance of computers in our daily lives can be judged by the number of people using them each single day. Computer is not only used by professionals, but also by the little children and grownups at our homes.

