

Unit 2 Handout 2

- I. **Argumentative essay topics are usually presented as questions. Choose one of the questions below and build a simple 3-step argument in 5-10 lines.**



- a. Should college be free like elementary, middle and high school?
- b. Should everyone be required by law to vote?
- c. Should driving and texting be legally treated like drunk-driving?
- d. Should people eat vegan to help save the environment?
- e. Is “cancel culture” a toxic trend?
- f. Is life better now than it was 20 years ago?
- g. Are standardized tests effective, like PAES, effective?
- h. Is Capital Punishment a violation of human rights?
- i. Has the Pandemic inevitably ruined people’s social skills?

- II. **Now using the 5-part model for writing arguments, write your own argument following the cues from the template. You can stick to the same question or choose another one.**

1. Introduction	Your Writing
<p>a. Hook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An unusual detail • A strong statement • A quotation • An anecdote • A question 	
<p>b. Introduce the issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain it in a way that gets the reader to care. 	
<p>c. Claim or thesis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State your position in one sentence. 	

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2. Presenting your position	Your Writing
<p>a. Provide at least 2 supports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facts• Statistics• Quotes (an expert on the topic)• Examples	

3. Summarize opposing views	Your Writing
<p>a. Introduce counterarguments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify the opposing argument.• Mention an actual source, critic or group of critics• Question the argument• Provide evidence to prove why it is weak or illogical	

4. Respond to opposing views	Your Writing
<p>a. Concession & Refutation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledge some strengths of the opposing argument.• Agree with some part of the counterargument• Refute the point of view with evidence	

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5. Conclusion	Your Writing
<p>a. Restate your thesis claim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a <i>qualified claim</i>, which is a more evolved version of the initial statement. 	
<p>b. Summarize your main ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present a couple of sentences which accurately paraphrase your arguments. 	
<p>c. Call to action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urge the reader to take a specific action Recommend a remedy that reflects your viewpoint 	

Introduction	An introduction is usually the first paragraph of your academic essay.
Body	Two or three paragraphs which develop your argument and the counterarguments.
Conclusions	The conclusion brings together all the main points of the essay in one paragraph .

Final Tip:

Use **transitional devices, linking words and time sequencers** between sentences to serve as cues for the reader (*first, second, then, however, consequently, therefore, thus, still, nevertheless, notwithstanding, furthermore, in fact, in contrast, similarly, instead*).

