

Essay writing

How to write an argumentative essay

- Prepare an outline
- Write your thesis statement
- Write your body. For each body paragraph: topic sentence – elaboration – examples
- Write the introduction and title
- Write the conclusion
- Check grammar and spelling. Add finishing touches

Planning stage

- Consider both sides of your topic and take a position.
- Topic: **Should young offenders be subjected to harsh punishments for their crimes or should we be more lenient towards them and approach the situation with other solutions?**
- Write an outline
- Think of arguments
- Decide on which arguments you will use (at least 2 for and 1 against)

Writing the thesis statement

- Assert your side with your thesis statement
- A thesis statement is
 - a statement **of your position** on a particular controversial **topic**.
 - It can only be **one sentence long** and
 - It **can't be a question**
 - It must be **debatable**
 - e.g. not good = pollution is bad for the environment
 - good = At least 25 percent of the federal budget should be spent on limiting pollution

Writing the thesis statement

- 'Instead of harsh punishments, young offenders should be given the chance to rehabilitate through alternative solutions.'
- If possible, a thesis statement previews the arguments that will follow in the rest of the essay:
'While some argue that **young offenders** should face harsh punishments to deter crime, a more effective approach is to adopt rehabilitative and restorative justice methods, as they address the root causes of criminal behavior and promote reintegration into society.'

Bold = topic and opinion

Red = one argument against

Green = two arguments for

Writing the body paragraphs

Every body paragraph consists of

- A topic sentence = a single sentence stating the argument, which makes sense on its own.
e.g. not good: First of all, this would be help the victim's family.
e.g. good : First of all, harsh punishments for offenders, regardless of their age, helps the victim's family.
- Support for the argument. Give evidence by using statistics, study results, quoting well-respected people (politicians, academics)
- Add linking words at the beginning of the paragraph (first of all, secondly, yet, etc.) and to add coherence (because, despite, etc.)

Write the introduction

- The introduction consists of an attention catcher such as an anecdote, a rhetorical question, a future scenario (imagine...) or shocking statistics.
- followed by the thesis statement

Write the conclusion

- Sum up your main arguments, without using the same words.
- End with a strong last sentence. Perhaps a piece of advice or a note of hope for the future.

No me, myself and I

- Don't forget: no I, in my opinion, etc. in your essay!