

Name _____

Date _____

Class # _____

Writing an Argumentative Essay

The essential question being answered is: _____

My claim on this question is: _____

Reason #1: _____

Reason #2: _____

Reason #3: _____

1. The first paragraph should include:

_____ An "attention grabber" or "hook". This could be a quote, word, question, bold statement, or figurative language.

_____ Three reasons that support your claim.

_____ A clearly stated claim. DO NOT begin your argument with, "I am going to tell you why," or "My claim is".

2. The second paragraph should include: (Reason 1)

_____ Credible evidence (quotes, explicit text evidence, data, information) that supports the claim.

_____ Reasoning that is clear and supports the evidence.

3. The third paragraph should include: (Reason 2)

_____ Credible evidence (quotes, explicit text evidence, data, information) that supports the claim.

_____ Reasoning that is clear and supports the evidence.

4. The fourth paragraph should include: (Reason 3)

_____ Credible evidence (quotes, explicit text evidence, data, information) that supports the claim.

_____ Reasoning that is clear and supports the evidence.

5. The fifth paragraph should contain:

_____ A restatement of your claim.

_____ A restatement of the 3 reasons that support your claim. Make this last paragraph clear and powerful. Do not simply repeat what you have already said.

_____ End with a powerful, thoughtful ending. Do not end your essay with phrases like, "I hope you liked my paper and agree with me," "I hope you learned something," or The End.

6. Check your paper for:

_____ A variety of transitional words and phrases.

_____ Clear vocabulary that fits the subject.

_____ Correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, and capitalization.

_____ Clear sentences that express your ideas well.