

Writing Argumentative Essays

Appendix 1

Language summary: structure of paragraphs in the body of an argumentative essay

X = another writer on this issue
who you are citing

Y = a premise

Stage

1. Give the most general statement about the opposing position on this topic. Attach a problematising phrase to the statement to make it appear debatable and possibly untrue.

Language to use at this stage

X	asserts	that....
	contends	
	maintains	
	argues	
	claims	

It	has been	asserted	that....
	is	contended	
	could be	maintained	
	might be	argued	
	may be	claimed	

It is the	assertion	of X that
	contention	
	argument	
	claim	

One of the	assertions	in support of	Y is that....
		in favour of	
	contentions	supporting	
		for	
	arguments	opposing	
		against	

One	objection to Y is that ...
A common	
A frequently heard	

2. Expand or develop that opposing position. Attach a problematising phrase to each further opposing argument to make it appear debatable and possibly untrue.

It is	also	argued	that
		claimed	
		asserted	
	further	maintained	
		contended	
		said	

.... so this argument goes

This position goes on to further	argue	that
	contend	
	claim	
	maintain	
	assert	

3. Signal that you are shifting to arguments that support your main premise ...


However,

... and begin with a general supporting argument on the topic of the paragraph drawn (preferably) from an authoritative published source


... as X	explains
	states	
	shows	

4. Expand and develop the arguments on this paragraph topic that support your main premise

Moreover,
In addition,	
Furthermore,	

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