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

	asserts	
	contends	
X	maintains	that
	argues	
	claims	

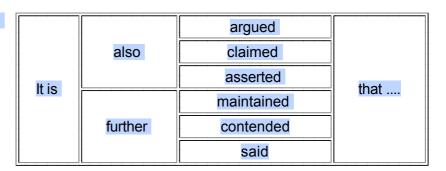
	has been	asserted	
	is	contended	
It	could be	maintained	that
	might be	argued	
	may be	claimed	

It is the	assertion	
	contention	of X that
	argument	Of A triat
	claim	

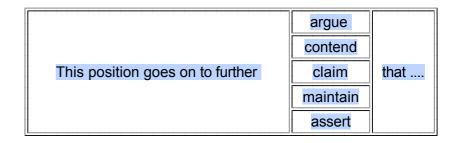
One of the	assertions	in support of	Y is that
		in favour of	
	contentions	supporting	
		for	
	arguments	opposing	
		against	

One	
A common	objection to Y is that
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.



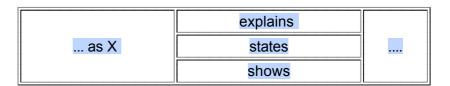
.... so this argument goes



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



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

Moreover,	
In addtion,	
Furthermore,	

Back to the top of this page

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Back to Writing your own argumentative essay

Back to Front Page