

High School English Study Guide

● Argumentative Writing

1. Outline

Introduction (hook, background knowledge, thesis statement)——

Body Paragraphs (arguments)——Conclusion

2. Introduction

1) Hook:

- a. Statistics or data
- b. Famous quotes
- c. A question
- d. Making a strong statement Using a metaphor/ simile

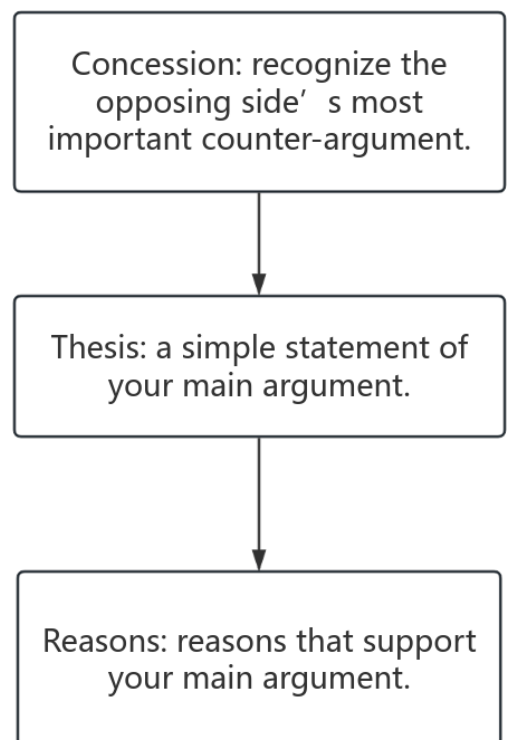
You need a hook at the beginning to grab the reader's attention.

2) Background Information

3) Thesis Statement: “concession-thesis-reasons”

A good thesis statement should be:

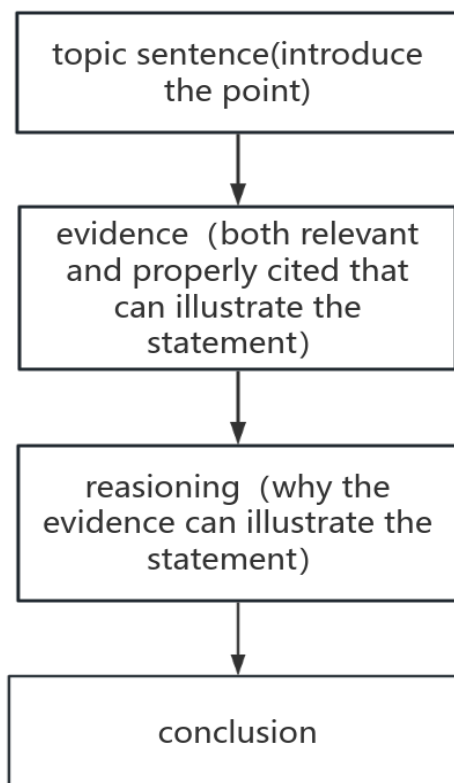
- a. clear
- b. something a person can disagree with
- c. take a stand (people need to know your opinion)



- d. express one main idea
- e. use clear language (no maybes or sometimes)
- f. should not be too broad or general

Ps: Do not use pronouns such as “I” in the thesis statement (no ‘I believe...’). Using the third person makes your writing sound more neutral.

3. Body Paragraphs: claim-evidence-reasoning- (counterargument)-concluding sentence(s)



- 1) Topic Sentence: always start body paragraphs with a topic sentence
- 2) Evidence:
 - a. Fact or Statistic

- b. Stories and Anecdotes
- c. real-life Examples
- d. Quotes [from an expert or non-expert]
- e. Hypothetical (what-if) Scenario

Ps: All the evidences should be relevant, sufficient, and credible. Sufficient means there is enough evidence to support the argument. Credible means the evidence comes from a reliable, unbiased source.

- 3) Reasoning: explain why this evidence works for the argument
- 4) Concluding sentence(s)

4. Conclusion

- 1) Restate the thesis statement
- 2) Summarize the main points from the body paragraphs
- 3) Explain the significance of the topic (why it matters)
- 4) Give final thought/concluding sentences

● Expository Writing

1. The outline of expository writing:

Introduction (hook, background knowledge, thesis statement)——
body paragraphs (arguments)——Conclusion

2. Introduction

- 1) Hook
- 2) Background Knowledge
- 3) Thesis Statement

A thesis statement should show the writer's own thoughts and ideas. In addition, the thesis should include concession, thesis, and reasons

A good thesis should have these qualities:

- 1.It should be clear
- 2.It should express one main ideas
- 3.It should use clear language
- 4.It should not be too broad or general

Using the third person makes your writing sound more neutral(do not use "I" in the thesis statement)

3. Body paragraphs——PEEL Paragraphs

P: Point

It should support your essay argument or thesis statement.

Always start the body paragraph with your point (topic sentence).

Include the subject and your argument or claim in one complete sentence.

Make your point concise and clear.

E: Evidence/Example (to support the claim)

It helps to reaffirm your initial point and develop the argument.

E: Explain

It explains exactly how your evidence/example supports your point and giving further information to ensure that your reader understands its relevance.

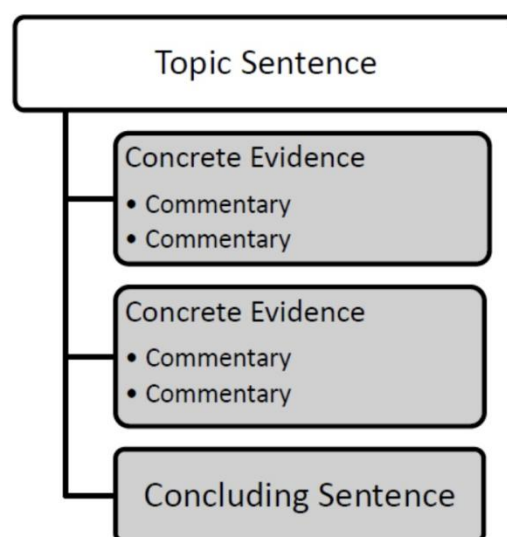
L: Link

You need to link the point you have just made back to your essay question, topic, or thesis.

Restate the big idea of the topic sentence using different words or a different order.

Summarize the big idea of the paragraph without repeating the exact same words

A fully developed body paragraph should look like this



4. Conclusion

- 1) Restate the thesis statement
- 2) Summarize the main points from the body paragraphs
- 3) Explain the significance of the topic (why it matters)
- 4) Give final thought/concluding sentences