

# How to Approach the Argument Essay

**Step 1:** Carefully read the prompt

**Step 2:** Decide your position

**Step 3:** Decide how to organize your paper

- Introduction: Clearly state your claim
- Body Paragraph(s): Evidence
  - Provide *specific* evidence
- Body Paragraph: Counter-Argument Concession
  - Topic sentence clearly signals to the reader that you are exploring the opposing view (See “The Language of Concession”)
  - Commentary: show that you understand why someone would have this view
- Body Paragraph: Rebuttal
  - Topic sentence clearly signals to the reader that you are returning to your original claim (See “The Language of Concession”)
  - Provide evidence that refutes the concession in the previous paragraph
  - Commentary: make a convincing argument for your claim
- Conclusion
  - Summarize your thesis without copying it word for word
  - Explain why this is an important issue
  - Make a strong call to action

## **The Language of Concession**

To establish your own ETHICAL APPEAL—in other words, to show yourself as a reasonable thinker who is willing to entertain the possibility of differing points of view—it is important in your argument to RECOGNIZE THE OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS. You make a concession, noting and explaining the views, which oppose your own.

**Certain words/phrases help you do this gracefully. These words are useful to introduce your concession argument:**

However,  
On the other hand,  
It is also true,  
Some argue that . . .  
Admittedly,  
While it is certainly true that . . .  
I concede that . . .  
Obviously,  
Granted,  
It seems clear that,  
Some make a convincing argument that  
Not everyone agrees with this position, however. Some argue that . . .

**Then, when you have finished explaining the view of the other side, certain phrases and words will take you back to your own point of view. These words are useful when you rebut the points made in your concession.**

More importantly, however,  
But more evidence supports the argument that . . .  
It is quite clear, however, that . . .  
But we must remember . . .  
These points do not satisfactorily refute the conclusion that . . .  
We must remember, however,

\*Thanks to  
Becky Talk, Laying the Foundation.org  
THEY SAY I SAY Graff and Birkenstein

# CHELPS

Argument Essay: Your claim MUST be well supported with evidence. Where you do find examples to support your claim? CHELPS.

C  
Current events

H  
History

E  
Experience

L  
Literature (F451, "The Allegory of the Cave")

P  
Pop Culture

S  
Sports/Science

C \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

P \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_  
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