

Organizing an Argumentative Essay Outline

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will organize a claim, reasons, evidence, and a counterargument into a five-paragraph essay outline.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 10 index cards
- pen
- a table or floor space to arrange cards
- tape
- notebook paper

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Label 5 index cards: Introduction, Body 1, Body 2, Body 3, Conclusion.
2. On the Introduction card, write your hook idea and your thesis (claim) statement.
3. On each Body card, write one reason plus one piece of evidence that supports it (use your work from Weeks 2 and 5).
4. On one extra card, write your counterargument and rebuttal, and physically place it where it makes most sense in the order (often Body 3, right before the conclusion).
5. Arrange all 5 cards in order on a table, tape them onto a sheet of notebook paper in that order, and number them 1 through 5.

QUESTIONS

1. What is your thesis statement as it will appear in your introduction?

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2. Where did you place your counterargument and rebuttal in the outline, and why?

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3. Which body paragraph do you think is your strongest, and why?
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4. What is the purpose of a conclusion paragraph in an argumentative essay?
