
Argument Paragraph

Key Terms

—

Argument

In life -- conflicts that use language.

In writing -- opinions that can be backed up with evidence.

Credible Source - An outside source that is free of bias and contains legitimate anecdotal and/or factual evidence.

Persuasion – to move another person or group to agree with a belief or position through argument, appeal, or course of action.

Fact – information that is certain and can be proven. **Opinion** - a person or persons individual feelings on a topic, cannot necessarily be proven or true

Debatable Claim – an opinion that is a matter of personal experience and values that must be backed up with evidence. Others can disagree with this claim.

Evidence- details, facts, and reasons that directly relate to and support a debatable claim.

Anecdotal Evidence- evidence based on personal observation and experience, often in the form of a brief story. Can come from the writer, friends, family, and acquaintances.

Factual Evidence- data, confirmed facts, and research performed by experts. Found by the writer performing research.

Commentary – sentences in an argument paragraph that explain what is important about the evidence and tell the reader how it proves and supports the claim.

Topic Sentences – the first sentence of a paragraph, which provides a promise to the reader about what is to come. In an argument paragraph, the topic sentence must contain a debatable claim and should provide a sense of the evidence that is to come.