

Writing an argumentative essay

I. General structure : III → 3 / 3 / 3

1. PART ONE: Introduction

1.1. Catchphrase

= general statement supported by a historical or contemporary anecdote (possibly seen in class) / statistics / quote (possibly from the text)

1.2. Key question

1.3. Outline: very briefly explain what you intend to prove, and how.

2. PART TWO: The body

→ Two or three parts, skip lines between parts (one part = one or two paragraphs)

- Structure of a paragraph:

2.1. Idea

2.2. supported by an Argument

2.3. evidenced by a **SPECIFIC and DETAILED example** (Who, When, Where, What, how, Why)

- ⚠ Avoid self-contradiction and confusion (“yes but no but maybe”).

3. PART THREE: The conclusion

3.1. *To conclude, / In conclusion,* + short summary of your 2 or 3 main points, **REPHRASED**

3.2. Your final answer to the key question

3.3. Opening statement: not a question, no suspension marks.

II. Writing conventions

- ⚠ Do **NOT** use “we,” which is **very awkward** in English
- ⚠ Do **NOT** use “you” which is (very) **informal**
 - **DO USE: the pronoun “I” to own YOUR opinion**
 - **DO USE: PASSIVE FORMS, PEOPLE** (students, YouTube users, creators, etc.), **SOMEONE** (a student, a YouTube user, a creator, etc.)
 - ↳ **THEY/THEIR/THEM**
- Start each paragraph with a **linking word or phrase** (see p. 68)

III. Marking criteria (see marking grid p. 71)

1. Contents

→ Have you answered the question convincingly in a personal AND knowledgeable way?

2. Structure → Have you respected the structure above and expressed your ideas clearly?

3. Correction → Have you only made few and minor mistakes?

4. Range → Have you used a great variety of vocabulary and grammar forms?