

English 10

November 4th

Argumentative Essay #1

- I can use a process to generate a well-organized, well written and well thought essay

The Essay Process

1. **Analyze** the prompt. ✓
2. **Brainstorm** possible claims and evidence that matches those claims ✓
3. **Discuss** your claims and evidence. ✓
4. **Create** an initial **claim statement (thesis)** ✓
5. **Organize** the evidence and support for that claim statement. ✓
6. **Write** a clear thesis statement based on your claim statement. (check and share) ✓
7. **Identify** primary counter-claims to your thesis statement. ✓
8. **Write** your introductory paragraph. (Draft) ✓
9. **Write** a counter-claim (antithesis) paragraph. (Draft) ✓
10. **Write** at least two supporting paragraphs. (Draft) ✓
11. **Write** a concluding paragraph. (Draft)
12. **Revise** your essay for ideas, transitions, and fluency.
13. **Edit** your essay for grammar, usage, mechanics, spelling and format.

Review

8. Write Your Introduction

Elements:

1. A hook- A way to engage your audience in the argument (Why is this important?)
2. The context of the argument: background, situation, people involved (What or who does this affect?)
3. Narrowing to your specific argument (What specifically will you be addressing? What will your argument be about (without making the claim)?)
4. Thesis (What are you claiming?) – **From step 6**
5. Plan of Attack: 2-3 reasons that your Thesis is correct. This should be easy if you wrote a strong thesis statement. – **Also from step 6**

Review

9. Write a Counter-Claim Paragraph

Elements:

1. Antithesis transition: "Some might claim" or "While opponents of this might say"
2. Antithesis Main Idea- What is/are the most major of the arguments against your claim?
3. Antithesis Evidence- What is a piece of evidence that supports this claim?
4. Refutation- How does this evidence not work or how is it in error?
5. Antithesis Claim/Evidence-
6. Refutation
7. *Transition back to your argument- counter-conclusion.*

Review

10. Write a Support Paragraph

Elements:

1. **Main Idea**- in this case ,a statement about your thesis that makes that thesis seem true
2. **Clarify**- explain any difficult concepts or complex ideas presented in your main idea
3. **Verify**- this is direct evidence- the proof
4. **Support**- this is how your evidence proves the thesis
5. **Verify**-
6. **Support**-
7. **Redirect**- this connects your main idea to your thesis- How does what you said in this paragraph make your thesis more true?

Review

1. Write a Concluding Paragraph

Elements:

1. Review your main claim
2. Review the reasons (and possibly key evidence) that prove the claim
3. Make a call to action or call for support (or So What? Statement)

#12 Creating Formal Voice

When you create your first full draft of your essay, it will need to be in a formal and mature voice.

Formal Voice includes:

1. Objective 3rd Person (avoid 1st and 2nd Person)

2. Tense Agreement

1. Usage

2. Spelling

3. Formal Word Choice

4. Good Transition Words

3rd Person Objective

- Third person is an objective way of stating things that does not count on one persons point of view
- This means words like "I, me, my, mine," "you, your," or "we, our," are basically eliminated from formal writing.
- **Example:**

Informal: I think that we should change the length of the school year for students who are behind in their learning.

Formal: The school board should change the length of the school year of students who are behind in their learning.

Tense Agreement

- Tense agreement means that all of the verbs happen in the correct time relative to one another. Generally, you will want to maintain a simple present.

Example:

No Agreement: Schools that had kids in poverty also usually have problems with transportation for the kids.

Agreement: Schools that have kids in poverty also usually have problems with transportation for the kids.

Transition Words and Phrases

- Transitional Words and Phrases are designed to make formal writing “**flow.**” This means that moving between smaller ideas and bigger ideas should have some sort of “marking” word or phrase. These are transitions.
- Avoid the terrible trio- “First, Second, Third”- (They are less mature)

Transition Words and Phrases

Basic Transitions Sets

One • The other
One • Another
First of all • Also
To begin • Next
One • Equally important
First of all • Next • The final
One example • Another example
A good example • A better example
An important • An equally important
A good • A better • The best
To begin • Then • After that
One way • Another way • A final method
Initially • Then • After that
A bad • A worse • The worst
To begin • At the same time • Finally
First of all • Besides • In addition

Transitions Words for Showing Alike or Different

Similar to	Unlike
Equal to	On the other hand
A similar	Just the opposite
Another	Different from
The same as	But

Transition Words for Showing Place or Location

Near	Outside
Beside	Inside
On top of	Behind
Between	Next to
Across from	By
	Throughout
	To the right of
	On the left side

Transition Words for Showing Time

Before	After
During	Later
Until	Then
	Meanwhile
	As soon as
	Sometimes

Transitions Words for Making a Point

For example An example of
For instance As well as
In other words
The most important
Furthermore

Transition Examples

Without Transitions:

Three things will happen if the school pays students to do well on tests. The students will attend more. Test scores will go up. Kids will value their education more. These three things make paying students worthwhile.

With Transitions:

Three things will **certainly** happen if the school pays students to do well on tests. **Initially**, the students will attend more. **As a result of this**, test scores will go up; **furthermore**, kids will value their education more. **Clearly**, these three things make paying students worthwhile.

Formal Word Use

- Avoid contractions and **informal words/phrases**- sometimes when you are in too big a hurry you will not even notice these errors which is why we edit.
- Contractions are words like: don't, should've, can't, wouldn't
- Informal Words are words/phrases like: gonna, woulda, runnin', cuz (or cause), informal "like", :), XD (emoticons), j/k, b/c, omg (texting writing)

Example:

Informal: Most kids like don't really wanna go to school if they don't have to b/c they aren't gonna learn anything anyway.

Formal: Most kids do not really want to go to school if they do not have to because they are not going to learn anything anyway.