

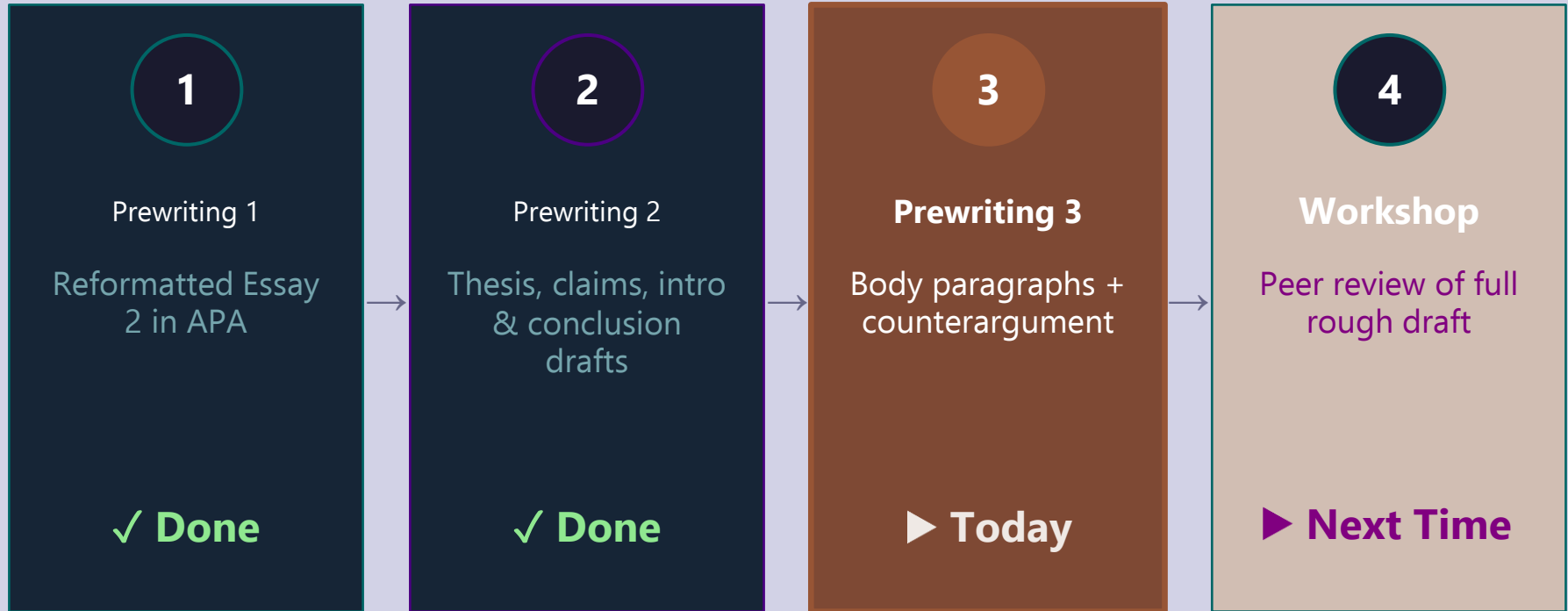
Building Your Draft

From Prewriting to Argument

**Argument Essay
Prewriting 3**

Where We Are

The road from informative essay to argument draft



Your intro and conclusion are drafted. Today we build the middle.

Step 1: Your Claims Are Your Topic Sentences

Each claim from Prewriting 2 becomes the opening sentence of a body paragraph. The shift: a topic sentence in an informative essay names a topic. A topic sentence in an argument essay makes a claim.

INFORMATIVE topic sentence (Essay 2):

The data broker industry is a large and largely invisible business that raises concerns about privacy.

ARGUMENT topic sentence (Essay 3):

Data brokers collect massive amounts of personal data without meaningful consent, and this alone is reason enough to demand federal regulation.

What changed?

- **Added a position:** "...without meaningful consent"
- **Added a because:** "this alone is reason enough to demand..."
- **Dropped:** neutral descriptive language ("raises concerns")

Step 2: Building the Argument Paragraph

The structure is similar to your informative paragraphs—with one new layer: analysis. You are no longer just reporting what sources say. You are telling the reader what it means.

1 Topic Sentence (Claim)

State your argument position for this paragraph.

2 Evidence

Quote or paraphrase from Essay 2. You already have it.

3 Analysis

Explain what the evidence means. "This shows that..." / "This matters because..." / "In other words..."

4 Connection to Thesis

Link back. Why does this paragraph support your overall argument?

Next: The evidence is already there

Step 3: Reframe—Don't Start Over

Your sources from Essay 2 stay. What changes is how you introduce and respond to them. You are no longer reporting. You are arguing.

Instead of (Informative)

"According to X, ..."

"X found that..."

"Some argue that..."

"This shows..."

Try this (Argument)

"X confirms that..., which means..."

"The fact that X found... demonstrates..."

"While some argue..., the evidence shows..."

"This is significant because...[connect to thesis]"

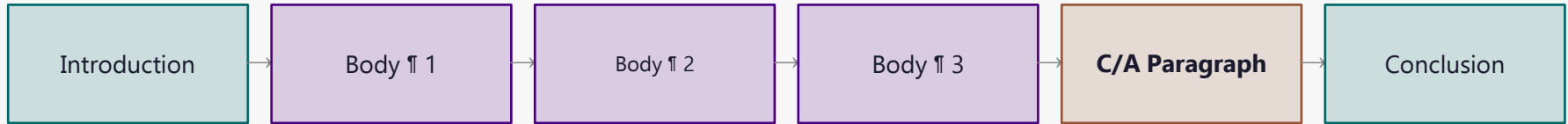
Tip: The analysis sentence is the most important sentence in an argument paragraph. It is where your thinking lives.

Next: The counterargument

Step 4: Where the Counterargument Goes—and Why

A strong argument doesn't ignore the other side. It addresses it. You noted the counterargument in Prewriting 2. Now you'll write it.

RECOMMENDED placement:



Why the counterargument makes your essay stronger:

- It shows you have thought carefully about your topic, not just argued one side.
- It builds trust with your reader by showing intellectual honesty.
- It lets you respond to the strongest objection before your reader raises it.
- Placing it before the conclusion gives you the final word.

Step 5: How to Write the Counterargument Paragraph

Three moves. One paragraph. Start from the note you wrote in Prewriting 2.

1

Name it fairly

State the opposing view in its strongest, most honest form. Don't set up a weak version just to knock it down.

Sentence starters:

"Some argue that..." / "Critics of this position contend..." / "Those who oppose regulation point out..."

2

Acknowledge what's valid

Admit there is something reasonable about the opposing view. One or two sentences is enough.

Sentence starters:

"This is a fair point, and it is true that..." / "There is some merit to this concern..."

3

Pivot back

Explain why your position is still stronger. These are the most important sentences in the paragraph.

Sentence starters:

"However..." / "Even so..." / "Nevertheless, the evidence suggests that..."

Next: Your draft in five parts

Your Draft in Five Parts

You already have the first and last piece. Today you built the middle.

NOTE: 3 isn't the required number of paragraphs/ subtopics, it's just functional as an example.

Introduction

From Prewriting 2—hook, context, thesis

✓ drafted

Body Paragraph 1

Claim → evidence → analysis → connection

Body Paragraph 2

Claim → evidence → analysis → connection

Body Paragraph 3

Claim → evidence → analysis → connection

Counterargument

Name it → acknowledge → pivot back

Conclusion

From Prewriting 2—restate, summarize, so what

✓ drafted

Tips for Writing Your Draft

A rough draft doesn't have to be perfect. It has to exist. Here is how to make it easier.



Build from what you have

Don't start with a blank page. Open your informative essay and Prewriting 2. Use them as your raw material.



Write in your own voice

Big formal words do not make a stronger argument. Write clearly, the way you would explain it to someone who needs convincing.



Follow the structure

Work paragraph by paragraph using the four-move structure: claim → evidence → analysis → connection. Finish one before moving to the next.



APA formatting throughout

In-text citations use (Author, Year, p. #). Your References page carries over from Prewriting 1. Check it before you submit.



Print it and read it aloud

Your ear will catch what your eyes miss. If you stumble reading it, your reader will too. Fix those spots.



Give yourself enough time

This is a longer essay than Essay 2. Budget time across more than one sitting, and bring it to the Writing Center if you want feedback before workshop and/or turning it in.

Prewriting 3

What to bring to the next class

Review this slideshow at
kelli.ninja/argument.html

1

A Full Rough Draft

All five parts: introduction, body paragraphs, counterargument, conclusion.

2

APA Formatting Throughout

In-text citations in APA format. References page included.

3

Your Prewriting 2

Bring it with you. You'll use it during the peer workshop.

4

Typed and Printed

Bring a printed copy to class for peer review. No phones or laptops for workshop.

A Tool for Deeper Thinking: The Five Whys

Originally developed at Toyota to get past surface-level answers and find the real cause of a problem. In a writing class, it does the same thing: it helps you discover the reasoning you already have but haven't put into words yet.

How it works:

Student A states a claim. Student B asks "Why?" Student A answers. Student B asks "Why?" again. Repeat up to five times. Each answer goes deeper than the last.

Example—Sofia's argument about data brokers:

Claim *"Data brokers should be regulated."*

Why? *"Because they collect our data without really asking."*

Why does that matter? *"Because we don't know what they're doing with it."*

Why does that matter? *"Because they use it to charge us more or deny us things."*

Why is that a problem? ***"Because people are being hurt by information they never agreed to share—and there's no law to stop it."***

That final answer? That's your analysis layer—the most important sentence in your body paragraph.

Now Let's Talk It Out

The Five Whys Partner Activity

Student A

1. Share your thesis with your partner.
2. Read your first claim aloud.
3. Each time your partner asks "Why?"—answer as fully as you can. Don't just repeat the claim.
4. After five whys, jot down your best answer. That's your analysis sentence.

Student B

1. Listen to the thesis and first claim.
2. Ask "Why?" every time Student A finishes a thought. Keep asking—up to five times.
3. Don't argue or debate. Your only job is to ask "Why?" and listen carefully.
4. Then switch roles and repeat.

The answers you find in this conversation are the raw material for your analysis sentences. Write them down!