

ENGL 1301: Argument Essay

Prewriting #2: From Informative to Argumentative—Developing Your Position & Planning Your Re-Draft

Purpose

This prewriting exercise will help you transform your informative synthesis essay into an argumentative essay by developing a clear position on your topic and restructuring your content to support that position. Review the [sample essay](#) as a model while you develop your draft.

Instructions

Part A: Analyzing Your Topic

1. **Review your informative synthesis essay** and answer these questions:

- What are the main perspectives or positions on your topic?

- Which perspective do you find most compelling and why?

- What specific evidence from your sources supports this perspective?

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- What counterarguments exist, and how might you address them?
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2. **Complete this statement:** After synthesizing multiple perspectives on [your topic]_____ I believe that
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-
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because [provide 2-3 reasons] _____

Part B: Developing Your Argumentative Thesis

1. **Transform your informative thesis** into an argumentative one. Here's an example of an informative thesis and the transformed argumentative thesis.

Original Informative Thesis Example: "Various researchers have presented different perspectives on social media's impact on adolescent mental health, including concerns about anxiety and depression, potential benefits for certain populations, and the role of mediating factors."

Argumentative Thesis Example: "Although social media provides valuable connection opportunities for some adolescents, its overall impact on adolescent mental health is detrimental due to its promotion of unrealistic social comparison, disruption of sleep patterns, and correlation with increased anxiety and depression."

2. **Your Thesis Transformation:**

- Your original thesis from your Informative Synthesis essay:

- New argumentative thesis:

3. **Thesis Strength Check.** Does your new thesis:

- (Yes/No) Take a clear position?
- (Yes/No) Provide specific reasons that will structure your argument?
- (Yes/No) Address complexity (acknowledge counterarguments)?
- (Yes/No) Use precise language?

Part C: Restructuring Your Essay Map

1. **Create a new outline** that reorganizes your content to support your argument—fill out what you can right now. This will help you see what you need to work on our find as you develop this transformation.

Introduction:

- Hook: [engaging opening related to your topic]

- Background: [brief context about the controversy]

- Thesis: [your argumentative thesis from Part B]

Body Paragraph 1: [First main reason supporting your position]

○ Topic sentence: _____

○ Evidence from source(s): _____

○ Analysis connecting evidence to your claim: _____

○ Concluding sentence: _____

Body Paragraph 2: [Second main reason supporting your position]

- Topic sentence: _____

- Evidence from source(s): _____

- Analysis connecting evidence to your claim: _____

- Concluding sentence: _____

Body Paragraph 3: [Third main reason supporting your position]

- Topic sentence: _____

- Evidence from source(s): _____

- Analysis connecting evidence to your claim: _____

- Concluding sentence: _____

Counterargument Paragraph:

[**Note:** You may have another counterargument paragraph. If so, copy this section and paste it below this to develop that in this form.]

- Acknowledgment of opposing view: _____

- Evidence for this view: _____

○ Refutation/response: _____

○ Transition back to your position: _____

○

Conclusion:

○ Restatement of thesis (in fresh language): _____

○ Summary of main points: _____

○ Broader significance/implications: _____

○ Compelling final thought: _____

Part D: Identifying Additional Sources

Based on your outline, are there additional sources you might need?

- **Type of source needed** (research study, expert opinion, statistics, etc.):

- Specific information this source should provide:

- Keywords or phrases for finding this source:

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