

## ENGL 1301: Argument Essay

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

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#### 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 work on your re-drafting.

#### 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?
  - What counterarguments exist, and how might you address them?
2. **Complete this statement:** After synthesizing multiple perspectives on [your topic], I believe that [position statement] because [reason 1], [reason 2], and [reason 3].

[\[Fill this part in\]](#)

##### Part B: Developing Your Argumentative Thesis

1. **Transform your informative thesis** into an argumentative one:  
**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:**
  - Original informative thesis: [\[paste your thesis\]](#)
  - New argumentative thesis: [\[write your new thesis\]](#)

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 this in—paste in parts of from your Informative Synthesis that you'll be using in this essay. Jot down ideas for the rest.]**

**Introduction:**

- Hook: [engaging opening related to your topic]
- Background: [brief context about the controversy]
- Thesis: [your argumentative thesis from Part B]

**[Note:** you may have more basic body paragraphs than 3. If so, just copy the body paragraph section for notes on your other one(s)]

**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** (Copy this section if you have more than one counterargument paragraph):

- 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 argumentative position, identify two additional sources you might need:

1. **Source #3:**

- Type of source needed (research study, expert opinion, statistics, etc.):
- Specific information this source should provide:
- Keywords for finding this source:

2. **Source #4:**

- Type of source needed:
- Specific information this source should provide:
- Keywords for finding this source:

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You can do this prewriting on paper or type it up by yourself, or you can use the links to these versions:

- [Word format form--to type/paste into.](#)
- [PDF form—print out and handwrite](#)