



An **argument essay** is a type of writing that requires a writer to support a position on a topic using evidence from literature, historical examples, research or personal experience to support her viewpoint. The writer usually uses several different arguments to prove her point.

To write an argument essay, you'll need to gather evidence and present a well-reasoned argument on a debatable issue.

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How many people could argue against my position? What would they say?

Can it be addressed with a yes or no? (aim for a topic that requires more info.)

Can I base my argument on scholarly evidence?

Have I made my argument specific enough?

Write a thesis that is focused and debatable.

Pick a side in your thesis and make claims.

Argue a position not a statement of fact.

3“Americans should cut back on their participation in the fast food industry because a fast food diet can lead to many health-related issues like obesity, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure.

The example above is targeted towards a specific group instead of a general audience. By doing this, the topic is more focused and clear to your readers.

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3 The homeless population in Chicago should be given access to more services like food donations, shelters, and public restrooms because it would make the environment better throughout the entire city.

This example shows a thesis statement that is debatable. People can argue for or against this statement. Opponents could easily argue that homeless people in Berkeley already receive adequate services, or perhaps that they shouldn't be entitled to services at all.

3 Poverty affects many Americans.

The thesis above states an inarguable fact or observation. While the writer could find evidence and examples to support this statement, very few people would argue against this writer's claim. To make this thesis more specific and argumentative, this writer could try to elaborate on why or how poverty affects so many Americans.

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Use passionate language.

Don't use weak qualifiers like "I believe," "I feel," or "I

Cite experts who agree with you.

Don't claim to be an expert if you're not one.

Provide facts, evidence, and statistics to

Don't use strictly moral or religious claims as support

Provide reasons to support your claim.

Don't assume the audience will agree with you about

Address the opposing side's argument and refute their claims.

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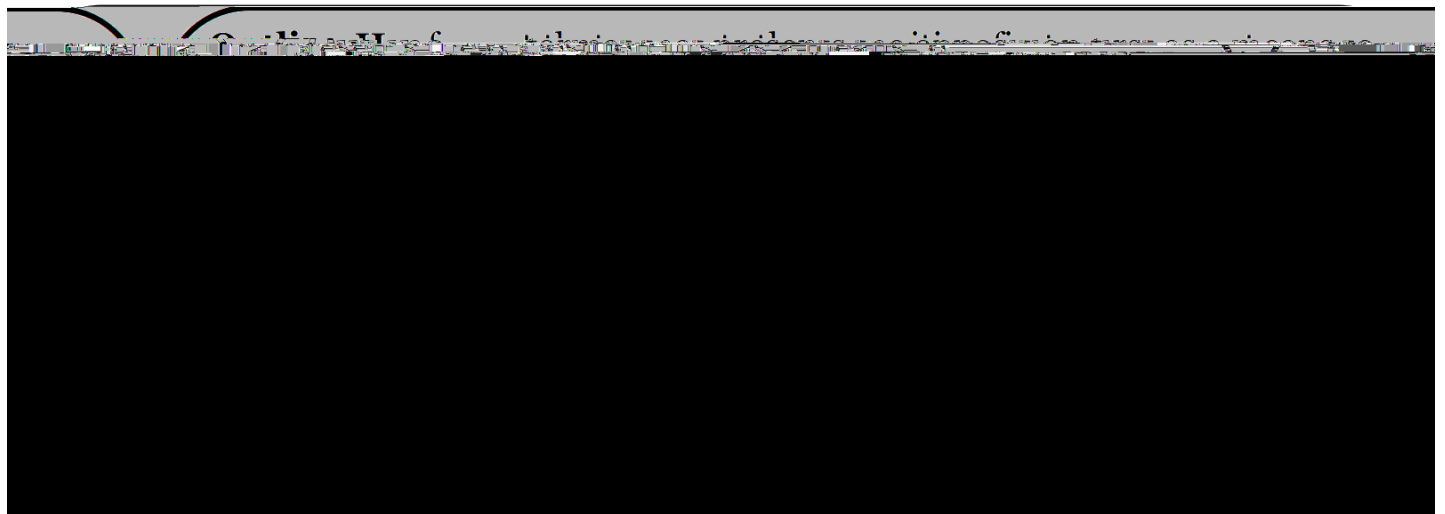
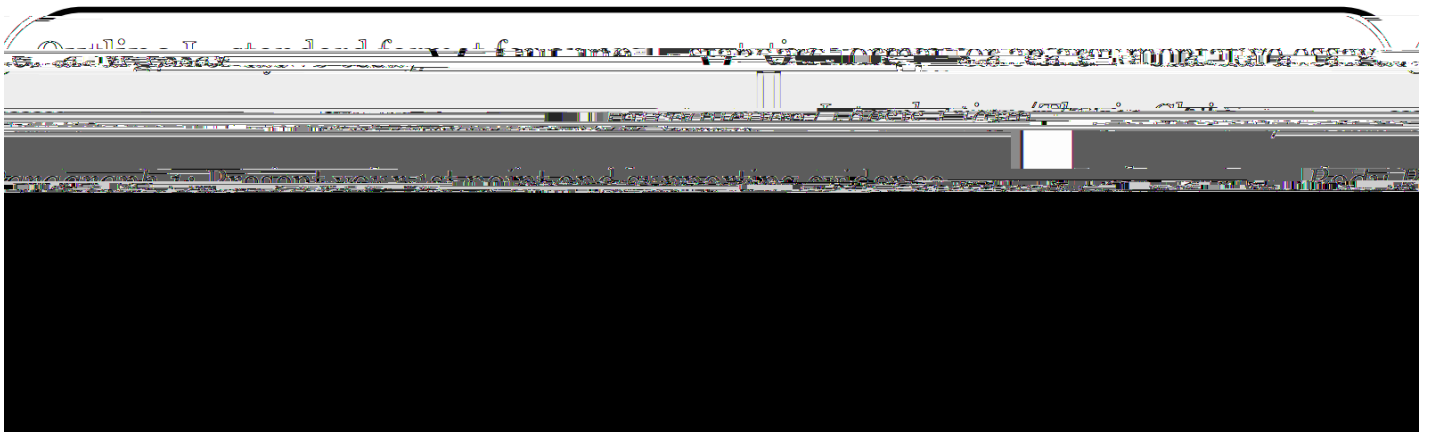
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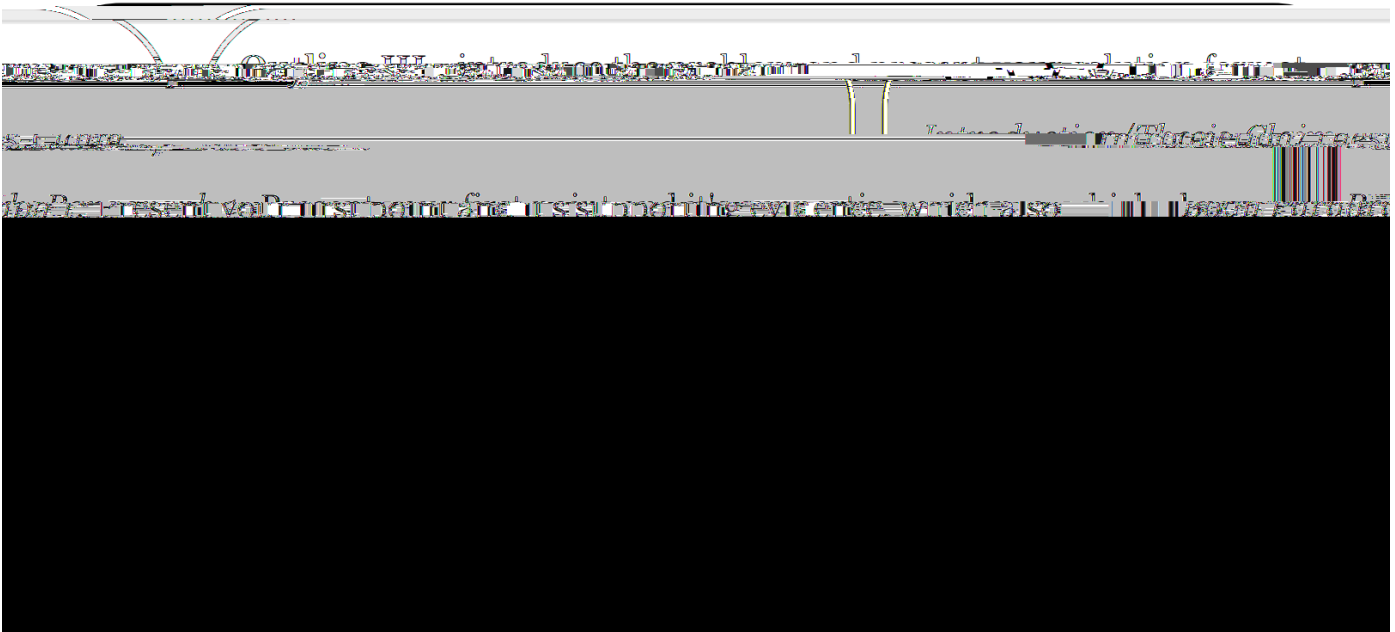


A successful and well-rounded argumentative essay will discuss opinions not aligning with the thesis because the opposing ideas on the topic will be addressed.



Here are several different outlines you can use to help organize your argumentative essay. These models can and should be adapted to suit the writer's needs and number of claims.





[Approaching a Writing Assignment](#)

[Using Evidence](#)

[Creating an Effective Thesis](#)

[Organizing an Essay](#)

: For more detailed help or if you have questions, visit the Writing Center located in the Lewis University Library or call 815-836-5427.