

Structure of the Argumentative Essay

Introduction

- Start with a sentence that mentions the title of the text, the author, and the topic
Examples:
Maya Angelou’s poem, “Still I Rise” is about...
The poem “See It Through,” by Edgar Albert Guest offers encouraging words to people who...
- Discuss what the text says about resilience. Then, talk about how the texts’ views compare to your own views about resilience.
- End your introduction with a thesis statement. Here is where you will list the most important lesson this text can teach people about overcoming difficulties and holding on to hope.

Body

- Start each body paragraph with a topic sentence about one of the lessons you listed in your thesis.
- Explain the importance of the lesson
- Provide examples from the text. Here is where you can quote or paraphrase. You can do this as follows:

For example, in the poem, the speaker says, “....”

We can learn from the book of Psalms that “..”

One of the most beautiful lines from the prayer is “..”

The following lines in the poem are about personal strength: “..”

The Gospel teaches us that “..”

Note: Remember to include a parenthetical citation at the end of each quote. If you are quoting poetry, include the line numbers you are quoting (10-13). If you are quoting the Bible, name the book, chapter, and verse (Proverbs 25.21). For other types of text, just include the page number (15).

- End the paragraph with some concluding comments.

Conclusion

Here you can summarize the main points you made throughout your essay. Your conclusion should be around 4-5 sentences.