

## The Argumentative Paper

The argumentative paper requires the student to investigate a topic; collect, generate, and evaluate evidence; and establish a thesis/argument on the topic in a clear and concise manner. The argumentative paper differs from the expository paper in that extensive research of literature or previously published material/peer reviewed material is required. As a result, the argumentative essay is commonly assigned as a final project (Purdue Writing Lab, n.d.).

In addition to length, the argumentative essay is logical. In other words, the writer cannot write an emotional response to defend their thesis/argument.

The most common method for writing an argumentative essay is the five-paragraph approach, which includes all four components of an essay. These consist of:

- An Introductory paragraph: This typically includes the main features of an introduction, such as a hook sentence, an explanation of the hook sentence, a clear, concise thesis statement/argument, discussion points and a transition from the introduction to the body paragraphs.
- Three Body paragraphs: Each body paragraph will contain a topic sentence –or the main idea of the body paragraph—example(s) supporting the topic sentence’s claim, an analysis of why the example(s) are important, connecting the body paragraph to the thesis/argument and a transition from one paragraph to the next.
- A Conclusion: The conclusion goes beyond a summary. It is the writer’s last chance to let the reader understand why the thesis statement is important and to demonstrate how the evidence used is connected, not random.

- Citations: These are used to prove that your assignment is academically honest. At Bow Valley College, most writing assignments will require the student to use the APA citation style. See the [Library website](#) on how to properly cite references that were used.

Note: While this is an excellent source of reference, students are encouraged to check their syllabus and/or rubric to ensure they include all the requirements of an assignment.

## Reference

Purdue Online Writing Lab. (n.d.). *Expository essays*.

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general\\_writing/academic\\_writing/essay\\_writing/expository\\_essays.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/essay_writing/expository_essays.html)

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