Essay Writing

1. Argumentative Essay
2. Compare & Contrast Essay
Assignment 2 (25%)
Essay Writing

1. Write a 500 word argumentative essay (about 2 pages double-spaced) that references at least two articles or news reports. The articles may be taken from newspapers, magazines, books, journals, or other printed sources.

**TOPIC: Should women who dump babies be charged for murder?**

2. At the end of your essay, there must be a reference section that gives the full citation of these articles.
Format

• Make sure your essay has at least 5 paragraphs which include:
  - Introductory paragraph
  - Body paragraph 1 (your own point)
  - Body paragraph 2 (your own point)
  - Body paragraph 3 (counterargument of the issue and your refutation/rebuttal)
  - Concluding paragraph
Citation

- Developing supporting details
  - Quotations
  - Statistics
  - Paraphrasing
  - Summarising

- Referencing Skills

- APA format
Essay Development

• Introductory Paragraph
  - Thesis statement

• Body Paragraph

• Concluding Paragraph
An argumentative essay is an essay in which you agree or disagree with an issue, using reasons to support your opinion.

Your goal is to convince your readers that you are right, to change readers’ minds, and to believe in your argument.

You have to take a stand on an issue, support your stands with solid reasons, and support your reason with solid evidence.
Sample Topics

- The most important element in a friendship is trust. Agree or disagree with this statement, support your opinions with reasons and examples.

Children should not be exposed to the internet. Sex education should be taught in schools.
Introduction

Contains the explanation of the issue.
The thesis statement in an argumentative essay states clearly which side you are for.

Example

1. Curfew laws are unfair and should be abolished
2. In my opinion, stem cell research should receive the full support of the government.
In an argumentative essay, the thesis statement often mentions the opposing point of view.

The writer’s opinion is expressed in the main (independent) clause, and the opposing point of view is normally put in a subordinate structure.

Eg.

*Despite the fact that education’s primary responsibility is to train minds, not bodies, I believe that schools should require students to practice a sport at least one hour each day.*

*Although some parents and educators oppose same-sex classes, there is some evidence that separating boys and girls in middle school yields positive results.*
Take a firm stance on an issue!

• You must choose one side or the other when you write argumentative essay.
• Do not be afraid to tell others exactly how you think things should go because that is what we expect in an argumentative paper.
• Always need to address the opposing side’s argument to demonstrate lack of bias, to illustrate a well-rounding understanding of the topic, to enhance the level of trust that the reader has for you, and to give yourself the opportunity to refute any arguments the opposition may have.
Do...
• ...use passionate language
• ...cite experts who agree with you
• ...provide facts, evidence, and statistics to support your position
• ...provide reasons to support your claim
• ...address the opposing side’s argument and refute their claims

Don’t...
• ...use weak qualifiers like “I believe,” “I feel,” or “I think”—just tell us!
• ...claim to be an expert if you’re not one
• ...use strictly moral or religious claims as support for your argument
• ...assume the audience will agree with you about any aspect of your argument
• ...attempt to make others look bad (i.e. Mr. Smith is ignorant—don’t listen to him!)
Organization

**Block pattern**
- **Introduction**
  Explanation of issue and thesis statement.

- **Body**
  **Block 1**
  Summary of other side’s arguments.
  - Rebuttal 1
  - Rebuttal 2
  - Rebuttal 3

  **Block 2**
  - Argument 1
  - Argument 2
  - Argument 3

- **Conclusion**

**Point by point**
- **Introduction**
  Explanation of issue, including the summary of the opposing arguments. thesis statement.

- **Body**
  - **first**
    Statement of the opposing side’s first argument and rebuttal with your own counterargument.

  - **second**
    Statement of the opposing side’s second argument and rebuttal with your own counterargument.

  - **third**
    Statement of the opposing side’s third argument and rebuttal with your own counterargument.

- **Conclusion**
The Legalization of Gambling: A Question of Friend or Foe?

INTRODUCTION

There is evidence that it existed during Ancient times; while under the rule of Caesar, the Romans participated in it. Gambling has now become an accepted reality of society (France, 1902). Playing the weekly lottery, betting on horses at the track, and dabbing one’s bingo card at the community hall are just a few of the many forms of gambling. Although it is considered to be a harmless hobby to some people, it is an illness to others. 

Despite the studies that indicate that gambling can have negative effects on the family and the law and enforcement system, it is the attractive revenue that gambling provides to governments and the influx of tourism it can bring to a city or country reveal that the benefits of the legalization of gambling are Greater.

*purple colour = negative effects due to gambling by the opposed
green colour = writer’s thesis statement which highlights positive effects
Legalized gambling has provided governments with a great source of revenue as it has helped to provide a tourist attraction to many cities, and it has provided a safer environment for people who enjoy gambling. One cannot dismiss the potential dangers of gambling; however, one must always accept the responsibility for their actions. Family members, school systems, and any business profiting from the gambling industry should do their part in helping to ensure that gambling is regarded as an exciting social outing, a thrilling activity, or in the case of the purchaser of a weekly one dollar lottery ticket, a fun hobby.
Cities where gambling is legal are considered to be great tourist attractions. When a casino opens, an influx of money enters the community’s economy because of the number of tourists. Las Vegas is a testament to how tourists’ dollars are capable of transforming a barren desert into a highly desired destination. The increase in the number of tourists results in an increase in spending in the community, thereby providing opportunity for employment and a boost to the hospitality industry. One of the reasons why many people have become willing to try to gamble is because the majority of people no longer view the act as a sinful and dirty vice provided by the corrupt underworld (Govoni, Frisch, & Getty, 1998).
Opponent’s Argument 1

When analyzing the cost-benefit effects of the legalization of gambling, one should also examine the family. One problem is that gambling has provided everyone with an opportunity to take part in an act that can potentially ruin people’s lives and the lives of those closest to them. There is evidence that gambling can have negative effects on one’s spouse, children, friends, life at work, school, and community, all of which can take a toll on the family (Basham & White, 2002). In 1991, an analysis on the Florida lottery discovered that a greater portion of the revenue generated through the lottery came from low-income families who, “purchased lottery tickets in place of utilities” (Abbott & Cramer, 1993). The growing attraction between children and gambling has resulted in a number of studies. Researchers have revealed that adolescents who get involved in gambling have a higher rate in school failure, family conflict, sexual activity, psychiatric disorders, and delinquency (Korn & Shaffer, 1999). Given the problems in this area, parents and schools should assume a greater responsibility in educating Children of the potential dangers of gambling.
Opponent’s Argument 2

The law and enforcement system is another area of concern for opponents of the legalization of gambling. This is because many people who have become in debt due to gambling resort to committing crimes in order to help with their finances (PBS, n.d.). This in turn brings police into the equation, followed by the judicial system should there be a trial. Once again, this argument is not a strong one, as the percentage of people who gamble to the point where they are forced to commit crimes is very low (PBS, n.d.).
Conclusion

- Summarizes the argument
- Rephrase the thesis statement
References (Examples)


* for more Documentation of Sources, please refer page 306-311 from your textbook.
COMPARE & CONTRAST
Compare & Contrast = Point-by-Point Organization

• Introduction
  Thesis statement: One way to decide between two job offers is to compare them on important points such as salary, benefits, opportunities for advancement, workplace atmosphere, and commuting distance from home.

• Body
  a. Salary
  b. Benefits
  c. opportunities for advancement
  d. Workplace atmosphere
  e. Commuting distance from home

• Conclusion
Compare & Contrast = Block Organization

• Introduction
  Thesis statement: One way to decide between two job offers is to compare them on important points such as salary, benefits, opportunities for advancement, workplace atmosphere, and commuting distance from home.

• Body
  a. Similarities
    1. benefits
    2. commute distance from home
  b. Differences
    1. salary
    2. opportunities for advancement
    3. workplace atmosphere

• Conclusion
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison</th>
<th>Contrast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Similarly/Likewise</td>
<td>However/Nevertheless/Nonetheless/Still</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human workers can</td>
<td>Millions of people go on diets every year;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>detect malfunctions</td>
<td>However/nevertheless/nonetheless/still,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in machinery;</td>
<td>very few succeed in losing weight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>similarly,/likewise,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a robot can be</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>programmed to detect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equipment malfunctions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Also/Too</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human workers can</td>
<td>Although/Even though/Though</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>detect malfunctions</td>
<td>Although/Even though/Though most dieters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in machinery;</td>
<td>initially lose few pounds, most gain them back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a robot can</td>
<td>within a few weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>too/also.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just as</td>
<td>Differ from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robots can detect</td>
<td>Present-day rock music differs from early rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>malfunctions in</td>
<td>music in several ways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>machinery,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>just as human</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>workers can.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both...and</td>
<td>Unlike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both robots and</td>
<td>Unlike rock, a music style started by white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>human workers can</td>
<td>musicians, rhythm-and-blues styles were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>detect malfunctions</td>
<td>influenced primarily by black musicians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in machinery.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not only...but also</td>
<td>In contrast/On the other hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not only robots but</td>
<td>Rock music is primarily the music of white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>also human workers</td>
<td>performers; in contrast/on the other hand,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>can detect malfunctions in machinery.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>jazz is performed by black musicians.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• *Please refer to pg. 116 and 120 from your textbook for more compare & contrast signal words.
THE END.
THANK YOU.