

The Argument Paper

This only a general outline—feel free to alter it to suit your needs

Introduction

Introduce your argument (stance), including supporting points and general background information on the topic.

Everyone should own a dog because there are too many dogs in shelters, they are cheaper than alarm systems, and they have emotional health benefits.

Point 1

Support this paragraph with evidence from your sources; remind the reader why this point supports your argument.

There are too many dogs in shelters. According to...

Point 2

Support this paragraph with evidence from your sources; remind the reader why this point supports your argument.

Dogs are cheaper than alarm systems. The average alarm system costs...

Point 3

Support this paragraph with evidence from your sources; remind the reader why this point supports your argument.

Dogs have emotional health benefits. In a study conducted by....

Counterargument

Provide a valid opinion that directly opposes yours. Then, explain how your argument still makes more sense than the opposing position.

Dogs can become more expensive than one is willing or able to handle due to vet bills, training, and toys... However, dogs are worth the added expense because...

Conclusion

Remind the reader what your main argument is, including your supporting points, in a concise way. This should be worded differently than your introduction. If appropriate, call the reader to some kind of action in line with your stance.

In order to save dogs from shelters, save money on alarm systems, and improve emotional health, more people should adopt dogs...

This Outline is Flexible

When writing an argument paper, this general outline is by no means the only way to organize a paper.

For example, you can have more than three points, and you can insert your counterargument wherever it makes the most logical sense within your argument. You could even include counterarguments for each main point.

Always make sure your sources and evidence are appropriate and relevant to the field and topic you are writing about.