

## Argumentative Essay Outline Template

- I. Broad theme for your catchy hook (avoid “Have you ever . . .”)
  - A. Identify how your specific topic relates to “justice”
  - B. List reasons why this topic is important
  - C. Identify the topic’s place in history
  - D. Identify “general” aspects of the topic; do NOT give specifics
  - E. Identify the various positions (for and against)

THESIS STATEMENT: the only complete sentence in your outline (not a question); this should focus your argument and clearly present your position on the topic
- II. Background about the issue
  - A. What it is
  - B. Beginnings in American “history”
    1. when it first became an issue
    2. how it has evolved as an issue
    3. where “it stands” today
  - C. Why it is a controversial topic
- III. State the position opposite of yours (clear topic sentence – not catchy hook or question)
  - A. 1<sup>st</sup> Reason people feel this way
    1. Specific evidence or example or statistic
    2. Explain why this may be true BUT . . .
  - B. 2<sup>nd</sup> reason people feel this way
    1. Specific evidence or example or statistic
    2. Explain why this may be true BUT . . .
  - C. Analysis of the contrary position – transitions to your position
- IV. State your position as fact (needs clear topic sentence – not a catchy hook or question)
  - A. 1<sup>st</sup> Reason people feel this way
    1. Specific evidence or example or statistic
    2. Explain why this is true
  - B. 2<sup>nd</sup> reason people feel this way
    1. Specific evidence or example or statistic
    2. Explain why this is true
- V. Your Synthesizing Statement/Conclusion (do not include details in your conclusion)
  - A. Synthesize specific causes of controversy, overview of topic (highlight)
  - B. Transition from specific to “general” – how this specific topic has lasting effects
  - C. Give your opinion about how the general effects impact injustice/justice
  - D. Consider – concluding with your opinion or a “call to action”