Argumentative Essay

Guided Notes

Some notes about essays…

 It MUST have a ____________________________ and it MUST address the ____________________________!

 It should have five (5) paragraphs: ____________________________, ____________________________ (3), and ____________________________. Each Paragraph should have five (5) ____________________________.

 There should always be some ____________________________…a word web or outline will help get the essay organized before writing begins (________________________________________ your essay is not pre-planning!)

 ____________________________ 1st and 2nd person (I, me, we, us)

 Avoid using ____________________________…do not talk to the reader

 You MUST pick a ____________________________!

 Watch ____________________________ and ____________________________…and spell out contractions (don’t = do not)

 Kid = ____________________________

    ▪ If you are talking about young people, use teens, teenagers, children…but not kids (it’s too ____________________________!)

 Remember, this is a ____________________________ essay…try not to write the way you ____________________________. It becomes too ____________________________ and too informal for this type of writing.

 Also, be more ____________________________!…(Think: a lot, bad, good, things, stuff) Use a thesaurus if you get stuck

Thesis Statement Formulas: ____________________________ + ____________________________ + ____________________________

EXAMPLE: The Cat causes destruction in the house because there is no adult to enforce the rules, the children are nervous and don’t know what to do, and the Cat manipulates the children into following his plan.
Other Formulas:

- Through \( S^* \) (support), the reader learns \( T \) (topic) + \( C \) (comment).
- The reader learns \( T+C \) through \( S^* \).
- In story, the reader comes to understand \( T+C \) through \( S^* \).

\( (*S= \text{at least three items}) \)

Counter-Arguments

- It is important to ________________________________ the other side of an argument before proving your side.
- I would recommend that you put it somewhere in your Intro/Thesis Statement
  - If in the intro…
    - put in the fourth sentence right before the thesis
    - There are many bad celebrity role models for children to look up to. However, there are also numerous celebrities that are good role models because…
  - If in the thesis…
    - Although there are several bad celebrity role models, most celebrities are good role models because…

Broad Openers

- Broad openers are meant to grab your ________________________________ attention and initiate your reader's thought process in relation to your upcoming essay.
- You must be careful you don't ________________________________ at the beginning of the introduction, but you must be sure your broad opener relates to your thesis.
- TIP: One of the easiest ways to do this is to take one idea or concept from the thesis and make a thought provoking ________________________________ about it. The rest of your introduction includes the necessary pieces while tying your broad opener to your thesis statement.

Body Paragraphs

______________________________ + ________________________________ + ________________________________

Assertions

- Assertions are the mature version of a ________________________________ sentence. An assertion tells your reader what point you will ________________________________ in the
following paragraph, and it must stem from your _____________________________. An assertion must be an ____________________________ point and it may not include speculation.

Evidence

- It is very important to use evidence in ____________________________ body paragraph. You must be sure the evidence you use is appropriate and effective.
- DO NOT use evidence to prove a plot point, even if it is related to your thesis or assertion.
- Each piece of evidence used MUST work to ____________________________ support your assertion and thesis statement.
- As you work on your commentary, you may find it difficult to tie ____________________________ evidence to your assertion and thesis. If this is the case, you need to find more ____________________________ evidence. You don’t have to change your paragraph, just the evidence.
- You will lose credit if you are including evidence incorrectly because your ____________________________ and ____________________________ will not be entirely proven, which is the purpose of your body paragraphs.
- Please review each piece of evidence to ensure it is properly used.

Commentary

- The purpose of commentary is to show how the ____________________________ proves the ____________________________ and, most importantly, how the evidence supports the ____________________________. It is NOT a place to summarize or lose focus.

Conclusions

- Be sure to include all the following requirements for a complete, sophisticated conclusion:
  ____________________________.
  ____________________________.
  and the
  ____________________________.
- In the conclusion, you must be sure not to repeat your previous analysis, and only quickly summarize the main points (assertions). This is where you must show your reader the importance of what you have written.
- The closing (the last section of your conclusion) tends to be the most difficult part of the conclusion. The closing is meant to provide the audience with an understanding of how the previous thesis and analysis relate to the real world. A reader needs to understand how a paper connects to his/her own life.