Useful Argumentative Essay Words and Phrases
Examples of Argumentative Language

Below are examples of *signposts* that are used in argumentative essays. Signposts enable the reader to follow our arguments easily.

**When pointing out opposing arguments (Cons):**

- Opponents of this idea claim/maintain that...
- Those who disagree/ are against these ideas may say/ assert that...
- Some people may disagree with this idea,
- Some people may say that...however...

**When stating specifically why they think like that:**

- They claim that...since...

**Reaching the turning point:**

- However,
- But
- On the other hand,

**When refuting the opposing idea, we may use the following strategies:**

- *compromise but prove their argument is not powerful enough:*
  - They have a point in thinking like that.
  - To a certain extent they are right.

- *completely disagree:*
  - After seeing this evidence, there is no way we can agree with this idea.

- *say that their argument is irrelevant to the topic:*
  - Their argument is irrelevant to the topic.
Useful Essay Words and Phrases

Certain words are used to link ideas and to signpost the reader the direction your line of reasoning is about to take, such as adding more emphasis, or introducing an alternative point of view.

Below is a selection of words used to link ideas, depending on the direction of your argument.

Adding more to a point already made
moreover; furthermore; again; further; what is more; in addition besides; above all; as well (as)
either; neither...nor; not only...but also; similarly; in the same way; indeed in fact; really; in reality, it is found that...
as for; as to; with respect to; regarding

Writing in lists
first(ly); second(ly); third(ly)
another; yet another; in addition; finally
to begin with; in the second place
moreover; additionally; else
next; then; and to conclude; lastly; finally

Putting the same idea in a different way
in other words; rather; or; better; in that case
to put it (more) simply
in view of this; with this in mind
to look at this another way

Introducing examples
that is to say; in other words
for example; for instance; namely; an example of this is
and; as follows; as in the following examples; such as; including especially; particularly; in particular; notably; chiefly; mainly; mostly

Introducing an alternative viewpoint
by contrast; another way of viewing this is; alternatively; again; rather;
one alternative is; another possibility is...
on the one hand...on the other hand
in comparison; on the contrary; in fact; though; although

Returning to emphasise your earlier viewpoint
however; despite x; in spite of x
while x may be true...
although; though; after all; at the same time; on the other hand; all the same;
even if x is true; although x may have a good point
Showing the results of something
Therefore (=por lo tanto); as a result so, (then,) it can be seen that the result is; the consequence is we can see, then, that; it is evident that because of this; for this reason; this suggests that; it follows that due to (=debido a ) in other words;

Summing up or concluding
therefore; so, my conclusion is in short; in conclusion; to conclude; on the whole (=en conjunto) to summarise; to sum up briefly; in brief;

Useful phrases to introduce quotations (=citaciones)

- According to X, ...
- To quote from X, ‘...’
- X tells/shows us that...
- Referring to ..., X argues that
- As X stated/wrote/argued/discussed/expressed the concern, ...
Signposting sentences

What are signposting sentences?

Signposting sentences explain the logic of your argument. They tell the reader what you are going to do at key points in your assignment. They are most useful when used in the following places:

- In the introduction
- At the beginning of a paragraph which develops a new idea
- At the beginning of a paragraph which expands on a previous idea
- At the beginning of a paragraph which offers a contrasting viewpoint
- At the end of a paragraph to sum up an idea
- In the conclusion

A table of signposting stems: These should be used as a guide and as a way to get you thinking about how you present the thread of your argument. You may need to adapt certain words and phrases for your own purposes. You may also wish to add your own sentence stems to the list below:

**Signposting stems for an introduction**

To understand the role of ...(your topic*) this essay aims to provide a discussion of ...(the ideas you will develop)

This essay seeks to investigate/evaluate/illustrate/discuss the impact of ...(your topic) in relation to ...(the ideas you will develop)

Firstly, this assignment examines ...(your topic) and its links with ...(your first idea) Next, it closely examines ...(in relation to ...(your next idea) Finally, it focuses on ...(and how this affects ...(your next idea)

**Signposting stems for a paragraph which introduces or develops a new idea**

One aspect which illustrates ...(your topic) can be identified as ...(the idea you want to develop)

The current debate about ...(your topic) identifies an interesting viewpoint on ...(the idea you want to develop)

This first/next/final section provides a general discussion of ...(the idea you want to develop)

**Signposting stems for a paragraph which expands upon a previous idea**

Building on from the idea that ...(mention previous idea), this section illustrates that ...(introduce your new idea).

To further understand the role of ...(your topic or your previous idea) this section explores the idea that ...(introduce your new idea)

Another line of thought on ...(your topic or your previous idea) demonstrates that ...(introduce your new idea)
Signposting stems for a paragraph which offers a contrasting view

However, another angle on this debate suggests that ... (introduce your contrasting idea)

In contrast to evidence which presents the view that ... (mention your previous idea) an alternative perspective illustrates that ... (introduce your contrasting idea)

However, not all research shows that ... (mention your previous idea). Some evidence agrees that ... (introduce your contrasting idea)

Signposting stems to sum up an idea in a paragraph

This evidence highlights that ... (sum up your idea)

There is general agreement that ... (sum up your idea)

The strength of such an approach is that ... (sum up your idea)

Signposting stems for a conclusion

Clearly, this essay has shown that the main factors which impact upon ... (your topic) are ...(summarise your main ideas)

The evidence presented in this assignment has shown that ... (mention the conclusions you have drawn)

To conclude, this assignment has addressed a number of significant issues which show that ... (mention the conclusions you have drawn)
Argumentative Essay Outline (Sample)

Introduction

- Thesis statement/claim
- Main points (at least three)

Body Paragraph 1

- Present your first point and supporting evidence

Body Paragraph 2

- Present your second point and supporting evidence

Body Paragraph 3

- Present your third point and supporting evidence
- Counterclaim/ refute opposing claim

Conclusion

- Restate your thesis