

# ARGUMENT ESSAY

The last of the three essays on the test, this essay asks you to craft a response detailing and substantiating your position on a given prompt. Although the structure of your Argument Essay can be much more relaxed than the other two essays, it must include a strong thesis fortified by *specific* evidence and commentary that support a line of reasoning, incorporating sophisticated language and thought process when doing so.

## HELPFUL TIPS

The essay introduction needs to have an **explicit, defensible thesis that clearly showcases your position**. Do not restate the prompt or merely list pros and cons.

Utilize **specific evidence** from either your life, readings, observations, or other resources.

Often, it's best to take a **qualified stance** on a topic –something that isn't overly polarizing to one point of view but instead “leaning” towards a specific conclusion. This allows you to write a more sophisticated essay, showing nuanced thinking and the ability to address and refute a counterargument to your perspective.

Fortify your argument with the addition of commentary that consistently draws conclusions.

Don't forget to use the commentary to also connect the evidence to your argument or thesis.

**Make commentary and evidence the bulk of your essay.**

Elevate the level of your writing and garner that sophistication point by showcasing it through your thoughts and writing or the complex rhetorical situation. Some examples include:

- Launch your essay with rhetorical flair
- Encompass a nuanced or multifaceted stance
- Recognize the limitations or the implications of your argument, add contextualization
- Counterargument
- Substantiate your argument with effective rhetorical choices
- Resonate through a confident and convincing tone, use strong verbs and mature vocabulary (You're allowed to use personal pronouns as it is a semi-formal piece of writing but stay away from everyday communicative language such as 'You know?')
- Build momentum to your strongest point
- Vary your sentence structure: correctly add colons, semicolons, or dashes. Have some longer and shorter sentences
- Don't forget to transition between different ideas
- Conclude emphatically and with Rhetorical Flair