

Argumentative Writing

The argumentative essay is a genre of writing that requires the student to investigate a topic; collect, generate, and evaluate evidence; and establish a position on the topic in a concise manner.

Consider Both Sides of Your Topic and Take a Position

Once you have been given a topic, you should make a list of points for both sides of the argument and pick a side. One of your first objectives in your essay will be to present both sides of your issue with an assessment of each. Of course, you will conclude that one side (your side) is the best conclusion.

Gather Evidence

In an argument essay you will have to provide evidence. You'll explore two sides of a topic and provide proof as to why one side or position is the best one.

Writing Stage

Once you've given yourself a solid foundation to work with, you can begin to write your essay. An argument essay should contain three parts: the introduction, the body, and the conclusion.

Introduction:

As in any essay, the first paragraph of your argument essay should contain a brief explanation of your topic, some background information, and a thesis statement. In this case, your thesis will be a statement of your position on a particular controversial topic.

Body:

The body of your essay will contain the meat of your argument. You should go into more detail about the two supporting claims for your argument. You will also present a counter argument and then provide evidence to show why the counter argument isn't valid. Select your strongest evidence and present your points one by one. Use a mix of evidence types, from statistics, to other studies and anecdotal stories.

Conclusion:

Re-state your position as the most sensible one ask your reader to take action.

Tips for Your Essay:

- **DO NOT USE FIRST PERSON PRONOUNS (“I”, “me”, “we”, etc.)!**
- Avoid emotional language
- Know the difference between a logical conclusion and an emotional point of view
- Don't make up evidence
- Cite your sources

Directions

Use the following two articles to fill in the chart that follows.

Topic for your thesis: Should the United States take in more Syrian refugees?

Article # 1

The U.S. Must Not Accept Any Syrian Refugees

Dr. Ben Carson November 17, 2015 Time.Com

The carnage in Paris last Friday reminded us all of the evil of Islamic extremism. President Barack Obama has promised to “bring these terrorists to justice.” Yet his administration appears altogether oblivious to the threat posed by an influx of refugees from war-torn Syria into the U.S. homeland. Furthermore, in the war against Islamic extremism, the President cannot even bring himself to confront the enemy by its name.

This Monday, I sent letters to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Speaker Paul Ryan urging Congress to terminate all public funding for ongoing federal programs that seek to resettle refugees from Syria into the U.S. I also call on the American people to stop viewing Islamic extremism through the lens of political correctness.

We now know that several teams of ISIS terrorist attacked six different locations in Paris, killing at least 132 people and wounding hundreds more. We have also learned that one of the terrorists responsible for this grotesque attack may have left Syria posing as a migrant and was able to gain safe entry to France, Belgium and perhaps other central European countries.

Given the tragedy in Paris last Friday, the U.S. simply cannot, should not and must not accept *any* Syrian refugees. Unfortunately, the Obama administration has pledged that the U.S. would accept an additional 45,000 new refugees, mostly from Syria, from 2016 to 2017. This must not happen. Instead of half talk and feel-good promises, the U.S. must defend itself with sound security measures.

Paris offers a bloody reminder that we must not be afraid to confront those who harbor the jihadist views that have spread violence and hatred around the world.

Although President Obama and presidential candidates from the Democratic Party prefer to describe radical Islam as just a form of extremism, the rest of us should remember that jihadists who have spilled blood on our soil before and must never be allowed to do so again.

If we thought Islamic extremism is a phenomenon reserved for foreign lands, terrorists have made sure to expose our naiveté. From London to Paris, Sydney to Madrid, Fort Hood to Chattanooga, radical Islamists and their lone wolf followers have inflicted their savagery across the civilized world. Paris now offers the latest gruesome reminder of radical Islam’s barbarism.

Given this troubling reality, and given the bloodbaths that have been perpetrated in the name of Islam in the modern era, I announced a few months ago that I personally would not support having a Muslim president in the White House if he or she had not renounced Islamic extremism, Sharia law or the tenets and practices of Islam that are in conflict with the Constitution.

Certainly, not every Muslim subscribes to jihadist ideology. Throughout my career, I have worked with superb Muslim Americans. Many more have served America honorably by joining the U.S. military, fighting for America overseas, working with federal and local law enforcement to combat radicalization in their own communities and publicly denouncing the violent or misogynist teachings of radical Islamists.

For their decency and courage, we should be grateful. Unfortunately, their own communities have often viciously vilified them as heretics and infidels.

The reality is that the threat of radical Islam and the corrosive influence of Sharia law here in the U.S. is not just a figment of our imagination. The U.S. must defend itself by preventing the infiltration of terrorists who pose as refugees to enter our land. To do anything less is foolish.

Article # 2

This Is Why America Should Take More Syrian Refugees

Steve Chapman

September 14, 2015

Reason.Com

After the end of the Vietnam War, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese left the country, often in rickety boats. Given the United States' role in the conflict, Americans soon came to accept an obligation to admit many of them.

Conservatives thought we had a duty because our withdrawal allowed the Communists to win. Liberals thought we had to step up because we had inflicted so much damage on Vietnam and its people. In 1975, we took in 125,000 Vietnamese refugees, a number that eventually grew to 750,000. They have become a significant part of the American mosaic.

Today, we don't have to agree on which president is most responsible for the tide of humanity crashing onto Europe's shores. Maybe you blame George W. Bush for starting a war that brought chaos to Iraq, which spilled into Syria. Maybe you fault Barack Obama for pulling out of Iraq and declining to take out Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

We don't have to agree on which president broke the region. But one or both of them had a hand in the destruction. So we can't very well pretend we have no obligation to the hordes driven from their homes. This is the biggest refugee crisis since World War II, a humanitarian emergency of the highest order, and the U.S. isn't doing enough to ameliorate it.

Some four million Syrians have left their homeland, going to Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and other neighboring nations. Hundreds of thousands have set sail across the Mediterranean Sea for Europe, and many have not made it: More than 5,000 migrants have died in the attempt. Others have suffered terrible hardships—which will only get worse with the onset of colder weather.

Some European countries have decided they have no choice but to open their doors. Turkey is now host to 1.9 million Syrians. Germany is planning to take 800,000 by the end of this year. Sweden has admitted nearly 65,000.

And the United States? About 1,500. On Thursday, the White House announced it would agree to another 10,000 in the coming year. But that's a tiny step toward solving a huge problem that is partly our creation.

The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), a private group, proposes a larger target: 100,000 Syrian refugees by the end of next year. That figure would not be out of line with what has been done in the past.

Besides the Vietnamese, we took in more than a million Cubans, including 125,000 in 1980. More than 300,000 Soviet Jews came here after 1988. Today, most Americans hardly remember these influxes, because they had no obvious ill effects.

The Syrian exodus sparks fears of Islamic terrorists making their way here. But people who trek hundreds of miles on foot or cram into rubber rafts for ocean voyages typically have more pressing objectives than militancy. They do it to escape violence and extremism, not to spread it. We know how to handle this challenge, having already admitted more than 100,000 Iraqis.

In any event, the U.S. government doesn't simply wave in anyone who applies for asylum. It has a thorough program to screen out criminals, jihadists and other undesirables. Applicants have to prove a credible fear of persecution or torture back home. "It's very selective," Eskinder Negash, senior vice president for global engagement at USCRI, told me.

If the goal is to combat extremism, taking in asylees is a better tactic than letting them languish in bleak camps abroad. "There is no surer way to create a young terrorist than leave them to fester in an under-resourced refugee community," Kathleen Newland of the Migration Policy Institute told *USA Today*.

The U.S. has a lot of experience with refugees. In a normal year, we resettle more than any other country. With the help of churches and other charitable groups, the newcomers generally adapt and integrate into society. Their children grow up Americans.

There is nothing about the Syrians that should deter us from admitting them in far greater numbers than we have so far. Besides, like it or not, we kind of owe them.

Argumentative Writing: Graphic Organizer

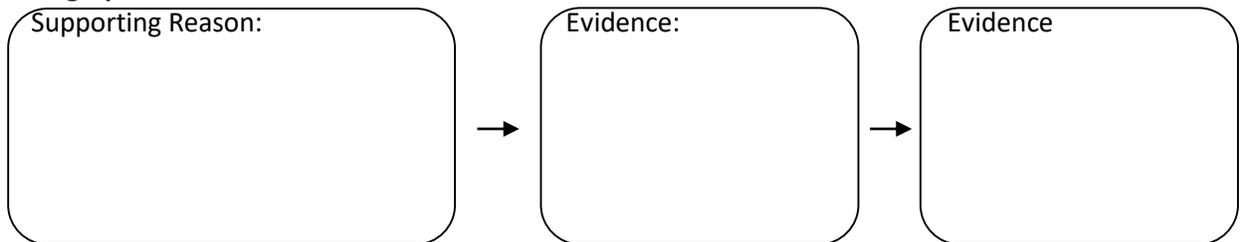
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Paragraph # 1

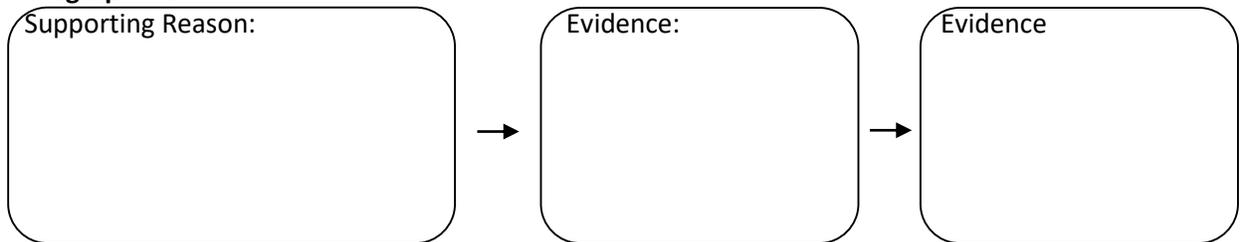
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Thesis Sentence:

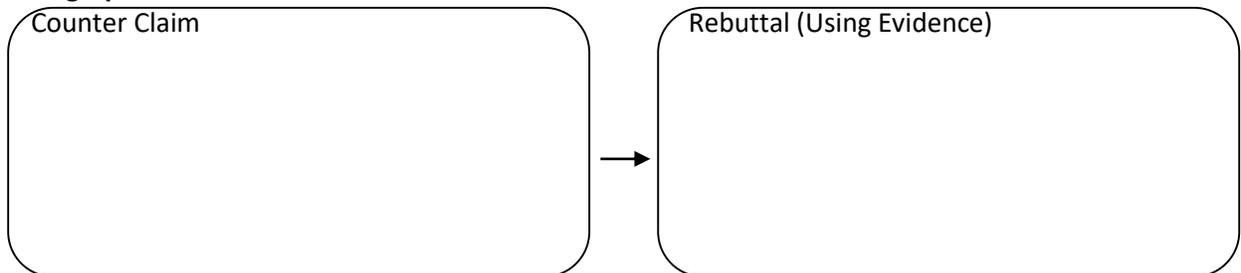
Paragraph # 2



Paragraph # 3



Paragraph # 4



Paragraph # 5

Provide a Concluding Statement that Calls the Audience to **Take Action**.