

*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; also  
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 (=citas)**

- 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