

## Organizing an Argumentative Essay

Your essay is most easily organized into five paragraphs. Open your essay with an introductory paragraph. Each of the three body paragraphs should be directly connected to the reasons in your claim, found in your introduction. For example, my claim was:

*Although some people prefer cats, dogs make better pets because they are more loyal than cats, they provide protection, and they encourage their owners to exercise.*

Therefore the **topic sentences** of my body paragraphs might be the following

Body 1 Topic Sentence: *Dogs are more loyal than cats.*

Body 2 Topic Sentence: *Dogs bark loudly and are good at protecting an owner's home.*

Body 3 Topic Sentence: *Dogs need to be walked, which encourages their owners to exercise.*

Look at your claim from, *Writing an Introduction for an Essay* and write your body topic sentences below:

Body 1 Topic Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Body 2 Topic Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Body 3 Topic Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The final paragraph of an argumentative essay is a conclusion. Here you should restate your main claim, and powerfully summarize your most important points. You want to leave a lasting impression with your reader. Conclusions don't need to be long. No need to use in-text citations in the conclusion, unless you use a direct quote