



Argumentative Writing

議論文



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What is (one-sided) Argumentative Writing?

Which of the following topics belong to argumentative writing?

Young people are getting less and less responsible. Do you agree?

Your teacher has asked you to write an essay discussing the pros and cons (好處與壞處) of making online friends.

Write an article agreeing or disagreeing with the following statement: “We should not bring a mobile phone to school.”

What happened on your most unforgettable birthday?

Many people think that being a child is the happiest period in their lifetime. What do you think?





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The Structure of (one-sided) Argumentative Writing

Study the following outline:

Introduction
(Paragraph 1)

..... I think students should not bring a mobile phone to school.

Thesis statement

Idea 1
(Paragraph 2)

To start with, students may play games on their phones in class, which in turn disturbs their study.....

Idea 2
(Paragraph 3)

Secondly, mobile phones are expensive possessions that students are too young to own.....

Topic Sentences

Idea 3
(Paragraph 4)

Thirdly, students do not need a mobile phone in school at all.. ..

Conclusion
(Paragraph 5)

To conclude, it is unnecessary for students to own a mobile phone, not to mention to bring it to school.....

How do I write the introduction?

Three good ways to write an introduction:



1. Starting with a story
2. Starting with what happens nowadays
(in Hong Kong or other countries)
3. Starting with idioms or old sayings



How do I write the introduction?

Exercise 1: Identify what method is being used in these three introductions to different argumentative essays.

Introduction 1

There is a saying: “East or west, home is best”. However, many people nowadays migrate to other countries, such as Canada and Singapore. But I think Hong Kong is the best place to live.



1. Starting with a story
2. Starting with what happens nowadays (in Hong Kong or other countries)
3. Starting with idioms or old sayings

How do I write the introduction?

Exercise 1: Identify what method is being used these three introductions to different argumentative essays.

Introduction 2

Some countries, such as Singapore and the U.K., have already banned smoking in workplaces and public areas. There is also controversy in Hong Kong about the same issue. Personally, I think smoking should be banned in Hong Kong because it is harmful.



1. Starting with a story
2. Starting with what happens nowadays
(in Hong Kong or other countries)
3. Starting with idioms or old sayings

How do I write introduction?

Exercise 1: Identify what method is being used in these three introductions to different argumentative essays.

Introduction 3

Yesterday my friend asked me for some advice. She asked me if she should accept her online friend's invitation to a party. "Of course not," was my response. Although it is common to make friends on the Internet, I think it is dangerous.



1. Starting with a story
2. Starting with what happens nowadays
(in Hong Kong or other countries)
3. Starting with idioms or old sayings

The End of the Introduction: Your Standpoint

There is a saying: “East or west, home is best”. However, many people nowadays migrate to other countries such as Canada and Singapore. But I think Hong Kong is the best place to live.



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You should extend the topic or give an answer to the question.



The End of the Introduction: Your Standpoint

You should extend the topic or give an answer to the question.

For example: Do you think students should wear school uniforms?
Explain with at least three reasons.



Thesis statement:

Students in Hong Kong should wear school uniforms because of the various important functions that uniforms have.

The End of Introduction: Your Standpoint

Exercise 2: Create a thesis statement for the topics below:



1. 'Watching cartoons can be harmful.' Do you agree?

Watching cartoons is mainly harmless, because cartoons are usually designed to be suitable for children.

2. Many students hate examinations because they are stressful. Some people even think that examinations should be banned in schools. What do you think?

Examinations are not the best way to test what students have learned. This is because they are very stressful, and only show what the student remembers on one day.

Other Phrases Can Be Used to Write Topic Sentences

The first reason is ...

The second reason is ...

The third reason is ...

**The third and most important
reason is ...**

First of all, ...

Secondly, ...

Thirdly, ...

Finally, ...

In the first place, ...

Besides, ...

Last but not least, ...

One major advantage of ... is ...

A further advantage is ...

Another point of view in favour of ... is



Exercise 3: Fill in the table by writing a topic sentence for each paragraph. Try to use the phrases from the bubbles you just saw:

Introduction
(Paragraph 1)

Should students wear school uniforms to school?

Idea 1
(Paragraph 2)

Idea 2
(Paragraph 3)

Idea 3
(Paragraph 4)

Conclusion
(Paragraph 5)

All in all, obedient children are not necessarily well-behaved students.

Exercise 3: Fill in the table by writing a topic sentence for each paragraph. Try to use the phrases from the bubbles you just saw:

Introduction
(Paragraph 1)

Students who behave well at home may not behave well at school.

Idea 1
(Paragraph 2)

In the first place, when children are at school, they are more likely to be doing activities that they don't want to do.

Idea 2
(Paragraph 3)

Secondly, children are surrounded by their friends at school, so they may act differently than when they are at home.

Idea 3
(Paragraph 4)

The third and most important reason is that children may respect their parents more than their teachers.

Conclusion
(Paragraph 5)

All in all, obedient children are not necessarily well-behaved students.