



DC English IV

Composition & Rhetoric

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Classic Argument Format

Aristotelian Argument Review

- **confrontational style**; aims to break down opponents opinions; assumes audience is on the other side of the argument
- a five (or sometimes six) part series
- **malleable form**; leaves room for exclusion/inclusion of various established concepts

Classic Argument Format

Aristotelian Argument Outline

Introduction

Exordium:

If an *informal project*, grab attention with hook statement, otherwise for *formal writing*, use a strongly-worded, very specific topic sentence.

Narration: provides overview of the discussion at hand; define expectations

Body

Confirmation: present evidence and claims

Concession / Refutation: Do acknowledge your opponent's findings on the issue at hand. **Concede** they have a point of importance.

Then, offer a **rebuttal**— *sometimes this process appears in the conclusion.*

Conclusion

Summary: reinforce views, but do not simply review stated material

Peroration: final appeal to your audience

Solution: offer plausible resolution— *the main message to your audience.*

Classic Argument Format

In the case of a **literary analysis paper**, your closing paragraph should **not** simply review your main points.

In collegiate writing, the expectation for your papers is to demonstrate a solid, defensible resolution or provide a specific observation regarding the full material and how it relates back to the world at large—or even better, to modern society.

Ask yourself: what is the main point to leave with your intended audience?

<https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/ending-essay-conclusions>