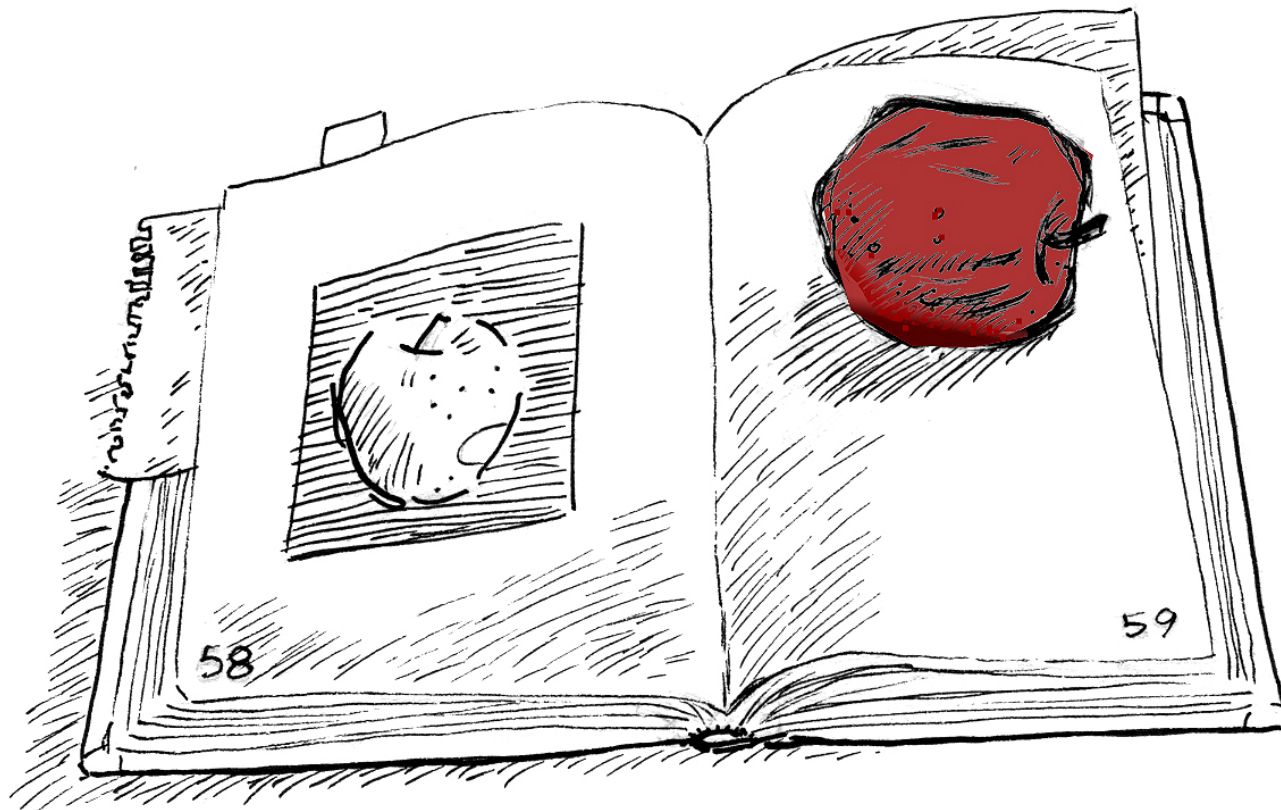


Basic Formula for Argument Papers



APA Style Argumentative Paper

Introductory Paragraph: the first paragraph will state your position in the **thesis** (see pages 80-81, sec. A2-c).

Likewise the introductory paragraph:

- Introduces the overall topic of the paper.
- Informs reader of your point of view without use of first/second person.
- Develop three main points (or more) to examine in the paper < ***thesis***
- The thesis statement should hint at your concluding paragraphs.

APA Style Argumentative Paper

The introduction paragraph should consist of five or more sentences.

- 1. Topic Sentence:** Shows analysis of chosen key words: sanity, perception, *etc.*
- 2. Secondary Evidence Sentence (SES) 1**
- 3. SES 2**
- 4. SES 3**
- 5. Thesis:** Declaration / State observation of the two stories chosen for analysis;
state three elements you will discuss in your paper

APA Style Argumentative Paper

Example Introduction Paragraph:

Identity is important to an individual. It maintains one's status in a community and keeps the average person operating within the restrictions of a culture. Without a sense of identity, a structure to follow, or cultural rules, an individual may withdraw from society or worse fall into a severe mental lapse. Two examples from literature are the Chambermaid from the Grimm Brothers' "The Goose Girl" and the Unnamed Narrator from Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart." Both of these characters are depicted with violent tendencies against people of higher class and at the same time are shown with ever-increasing levels of insanity and wounded egos.

APA Style Argumentative Paper

Example Introduction Paragraph:

Identity is important to an individual.

< key word shows theme for full paper

It maintains one's status in a community and keeps the average person operating within the restrictions of a culture.

< personal definition of key word

Without a sense of identity, a structure to follow, or cultural rules, an individual may withdraw from society or worse fall into a severe mental lapse.

< secondary commentary of key word/ theme

Two examples from literature are the Chambermaid from the Grimm Brothers' "The Goose Girl" and the Unnamed Narrator from Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart."

< topic declared / thesis part 1

Both of these characters are depicted with violent tendencies against people of higher class and at the same time show ever-increasing levels of insanity and wounded egos.

< topic declared / thesis part 2

< three elements shown

APA Style Argumentative Paper

Do not quote the dictionary.

- This is considered a cliché.
- Never show quotes, nor paraphrases, in an introduction *or* concluding paragraph.

However, you **can consult** a dictionary and then **interpret** the key word according to your own observations.

APA Style Argumentative Paper

Stay focused on your topic throughout **body paragraphs** (pages 81-84,A2-d,e).

1. Be sure to follow an identifiable train of thought and utilize a logical sequence of evidence by moving from less important details to more important details **or**
2. Use a comparison of like-ideas with examples of contrasting/opposing ideas.
3. Use transitions between paragraphs.
4. After each declaration you provide, include a quotation from the primary source (story/poem) to establish a sense of authority on your subject.

However, do not rely on secondary evidence (the critics) to simply express your own opinions. Formulate your opinions based on various statements the critics determine in their individual essays. Generally, in APA style papers, the intention is to show the various ideas you have found first *and then* formulate an opinion about the material. > *continued*

APA Style Argumentative Paper

5. In other words: **Research** is shown first, *then* your **Review** of the material is shown.
6. Likewise, you can use evidence to show a counter-example; if you disagree with data supplied to you, display the material in full, then use debate-style tactics to propose your opinions on a subject.
7. Always explain quoted material to show how it defends your thesis.
8. Do not lapse into summary of the various plots.

APA Style Argumentative Paper

Furthermore, by providing your analysis of supplied material, and *by using signal phrases*, the instructor knows you are not basing your observations simply on material “borrowed” from a random web site.

- Avoid the “cut-and-paste” method of creating a paper.
- Synopsis sites are fine for gathering ideas to approach, but do not use them for research material.
- *Your* observations and interpretations of material are more important in an analysis paper.

APA Style Argumentative Paper

Body Paragraphs

Typically body paragraphs consist of five or more sentences, just like the introductory paragraph.

Topic Sentence: Introduces new observation regarding thesis statement

SES 1: Clarifies new observation

SES 2: Signal, then state example of defense: quote or paraphrase

SES 3: Confirm material / Interpret findings / Explain why quote is important

(This section alone may require three, or more, sentences.)

Conclusion Sentence: End with major point regarding topic sentence;
wrap up subject

APA Style Argumentative Paper

Example Body Paragraph:

The Unnamed Narrator is clearly insane and is shown without any true sense of identity. As his story progresses, his confession becomes more and more emotional. He feels lost and without true purpose, nor seems to have a full understanding of his own identity. For example, near the close of the story he states: “Yet the sound increased —and what could I do? It was a low, dull, quick sound —much such a sound as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton. I gasped for breath” (p. 306). Poe begins utilizing italic phrases to show emphasis of the emotional state of his narrator. Likewise, his erratic physical actions begin to mirror his erratic tones of voice. What is interesting, with each progressive paragraph, the character appears more emotional and more upset; he becomes desperate to prove how sane he should be perceived despite his reactions to unfolding events, if only to himself.

APA Style Argumentative Paper

Example MLA Paragraph:

The Unnamed Narrator is clearly insane and is shown without true sense of identity.

< secondary observation for key word choice

As his story progresses, his confession becomes more and more emotional. He feels lost and without true purpose, nor seems to have a full understanding of his own identity.

< clarifies observation with example from text

< prepares reader for quote or paraphrase

For example, near the close of the story he states: “Yet the sound increased —and what could I do? It was a low, dull, quick sound —much such a sound as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton. I gasped for breath” (306).

< signal phrase alerts reader to evidence

< quote defends chosen topic

Poe begins utilizing italic phrases to show emphasis of the emotional state of his narrator. Likewise, his erratic physical actions begin to mirror his erratic tones of voice.

< an explanation of the quote is provided

What is interesting, with each progressive paragraph, the character appears more emotional and more upset; he becomes desperate to prove how sane he should be perceived despite his reactions to unfolding events, if only to himself.

< closure is provided; reader is prepared for a new topic

APA Style Argumentative Paper

In your concluding paragraph(s) do not summarize all of your main points; however, through deductive reasoning establish your most important concept in the closing section of the paper.

- Save your best evidence for last (see page 96, “deductive reasoning”).
- Conclusion paragraph(s) contain your most important points.
Summarize your argument with your most important information:
- What does all your evidence show when collected together?
- You can refer to the first paragraph/opening statement as well as main points, but be sure to restate information in new phrases.
- Most importantly, you should draw a deductive conclusion which sums up all your evidence and observations within the paper.

APA Style Argumentative Paper

Example Conclusion Construction

Topic Sentence: Sums up your analysis and provides closure to your paper.

- What do your observations reveal about the two *characters*?
- What do your observations reveal about the stories' *plot strategies*?
- Ultimately, what is revealed to you regarding the chosen *theme*?
- What do your observations reveal about the authors' intentions?

