

TOPICS FOR ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAYS

What is a great topic for an argumentative essay? Obviously, it should be an issue that you feel strongly about, know something about, and would like to share your opinion about. What is your opinion, why do you feel this way? Can you think of some reasons why people might disagree with you?

When you choose a topic, consider these two questions:

- Does the topic have two sides?
- How much do you know about the topic?

Look at the list of argumentative topics below. What is your opinion about each topic? Are they two sides of each topic?

Topics for Argument	
Banning cigarettes	Banning violent video games
Requiring school uniforms	Using animals for medical research
Mandating military service	Requiring a test for people who want children
Lowering the drinking age to 18	Banning cell phones in schools
Getting rid of zoos	Requiring a year of study abroad

ACTIVITY

Identifying Topics for Argumentative Essays

Read these eight topics. Put a check mark (✓) next to the ones that could be good topics for argument essays.

- _____ 1. The first time I flew in a plane.
- _____ 2. University education should be free.
- _____ 3. How and why birds fly south for the winter.
- _____ 4. High school teachers need a higher salary.
- _____ 5. Steps needed to get a driver's license.
- _____ 6. Legalizing gay marriage.
- _____ 7. Increasing tax on imported food.
- _____ 8. How to become a karate master.

Can you think of three additional topics that would be excellent for an argumentative essay?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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After you choose a topic, think about what you know about it. What do you know about your side of the argument and what do you know about the opposite side of the argument? A good way to organize your ideas is to use a **Pro & Con T-chart**. [Pro = in favor of thesis statement, Con = against thesis statement]

If you cannot think of several ideas for one or both sides, you should do more research about that topic or choose a different topic.