
Argumentative Paper Template

Introduction:

In this paper, I will argue that **[your main claim/argument]**

Summarizing the Opposing View

The philosopher/thinker/author **[name]** has claimed that **[their main claim]** Their reasons for this claim are:

1. **[Reason 1]**
2. **[Reason 2]**
3. **[Reason 3]**

Unpacking the Opposing View:

To understand the argument more fully, let's explore each of these reasons in detail:

1. **[Explanation of Reason 1]**
2. **[Explanation of Reason 2]**
3. **[Explanation of Reason 3]**

Critiquing the Opposing View:

While **[name's]** argument initially seems plausible, there are several problems with it. I will focus on **[reason number you're critiquing]**, which is problematic because **[your critique of the reason]**

Elaborating on Your Critique

To fully understand why **[name's]** argument is flawed, let's examine **[your critique]** in more detail. **[Provide evidence, examples, or counter-arguments to support your critique]**

Conclusion

In conclusion, although **[name's]** claim that **[their main claim]** might initially seem compelling, a closer examination of **[reason number]** reveals its shortcomings. **[Restate your main critique]** Therefore, I maintain that **[restate your main argument]**

Additional Notes for Students:

- **Brainstorming:** Before filling in the blanks, brainstorm your own ideas and arguments. What do you disagree with? Why?
- **Evidence:** Support your critiques with evidence from credible sources, personal experiences, or logical reasoning.
- **Clarity:** Make sure your writing is clear and concise. Avoid jargon or overly complex language.
- **Revision:** Revise and edit your paper to ensure it flows smoothly and makes a strong argument.

Introduction

In this paper, I will argue that the death penalty is an unethical and ineffective form of punishment.

Exposing the Opposing View

Philosopher Immanuel Kant has claimed that the death penalty is a just punishment for murder. His reasons for this claim are:

1. The death penalty deters others from committing murder.
2. It provides retribution for the victim and their family.
3. It is a proportionate punishment for the crime of murder.

Unpacking the Opposing View

To understand Kant's argument, let's explore each of these reasons:

1. He suggests that the fear of execution prevents potential murderers from acting on their impulses.
2. Kant believes that the death penalty satisfies a moral need for justice and provides closure for those affected by the crime.
3. He argues that the severity of the death penalty mirrors the severity of taking a human life.

Critiquing the Opposing View

While Kant's argument may seem initially plausible, there are several problems with it. I will focus on the first reason, the claim of deterrence, which is problematic because there is no conclusive evidence to support it.

Elaborating on Your Critique

Numerous studies have failed to demonstrate a clear link between the death penalty and a decrease in murder rates. In fact, some studies suggest that states with the death penalty have higher murder rates than those without it. This casts doubt on the claim that the death penalty effectively deters potential murderers.

Conclusion

In conclusion, although Kant's claim that the death penalty is a just punishment might initially seem compelling, a closer examination of the deterrence argument reveals its shortcomings. The lack of empirical evidence to support the deterrence effect, coupled with ethical concerns about the state taking a human life, leads me to maintain that the death penalty is an unethical and ineffective form of punishment.