

Argument Planner

Use an Argument Planner to plan the collection and organization of the logical evidence for an argument/persuasion essay. A blank Argument Planner is on pg. 3 of this Guide.

Elements of an Argument Planner

Essay Question:

Claim/Thesis:

Reason #: (be sure to state reasons with “because” clauses)

Evidence#1--(include quote)

Connecting statement:

Evidence#2--(include quote)

Connecting statement:

Evidence#3--(include quote)

Connecting statement:

Example Argument Planner Elements (for one Reason/Body Paragraph)

Essay Question: Did Eveline make the right or wrong decision to stay and not go with Frank?

Claim: Eveline made the correct decision in staying.

Reason #1: Eveline made the correct decision to stay [because her father needs her](#).
(claim + reason (stated as “because” clause))

Evidence#1—(include quote) [He is getting older: “Her father was becoming old lately, she noticed; he would miss her.”](#)

Connecting statement/How does this quote work as evidence to support your claim?: [He is getting older, and if she leaves he will have trouble because he will need someone to help take care of him. By staying, she would be able to help him. Her leaving would emotionally traumatize him.](#)

Integrated quote as evidence in body paragraph:

Eveline made the correct decision to stay because her father needs her. As she weighs the pros and cons of leaving, she worries what will happen to him when she leaves: [“Her father was becoming old lately, she noticed; he would miss her.”](#) He is getting older, and if she leaves, he will have trouble because he will need someone to help take care of him. He has no one else, and by staying, she would be help him in his old age.



What is a “Connecting Statement”? What do I write there?

As you find support for your REASON in the text, you will need to clarify how the quote shows or supports that your reason is true (or reasonable). You are connecting the dots between this evidence and your thesis.

For example, in the illustration above, the thesis is that Eveline made the correct decision by staying. The first reason supporting this claim is that she was correct because her father needs her. Thus, you are looking for evidence in the text that shows her father needs her and thus she was correct to stay. As you locate passages that you think work as evidence, the connecting statement is where you elaborate on why the quote shows and works as evidence for what you are saying it does. How does the quotes show the father needs her? What does the quote mean and how does it matter in terms of supporting that she made the right decision? Spell it out.

Important Trick: As you fill in Connecting Statements in your Argument Planner, think of these statements as a form of brainstorming. *Write freely and as fully as you can.* Explore these connections.

Then, as you write your Body paragraphs from your planner, your Connecting Statements can help you write the framework of commentary before and after the quote that help the reader understand how this quote works as evidence in your argument.

Using the Argument Planner to Write Your Draft

Doing a good job on your Argument Planner will help you SO MUCH as you draft. You can use the planner to be messy, to make false starts, to sort and select things you want to put in your paper. The Planner also allows you to see a brief overview of your line of reasoning and support to evaluate it and improve it before your write your draft.

Once you have your Argument Planner filled out, it works like an outline, and you can write from this outline. Each Body paragraph in your paper should develop support for a single Reason. As you start each Body paragraph, the CLAIM + REASON serves as the basis for your transition sentence. As you integrate each quote to support your Reason, the Connecting Statements prompt and guide your setting up of the quote before and your commentary on the quote after it. In fact, often you may find you can copy and paste content from your Planner into what you write after the quote.

What you will find as you compose with your Planner is that you will be able to find flow in your draft much more easily as you provide concrete support for your thesis. See example [From Argument Planner to Fully Supported Body Paragraph.](#)

Other Helpful Guides:

- [Arriving at a Thesis](#)
- [Development](#)
- [Strategies for Developing Support](#)



Blank Argument Planner (with Countering)

Copy this planner below into your own document to fill it out. [See example](#) of fully filled out Argument Planner.

Essay Question: (state it as question)

Claim/Thesis: (your answer to essay question, declarative statement)

Reason #1: (claim + reason (stated as “because” clause))

Evidence#1--(include quote)

Connecting statement/How does this quote work as evidence to support your claim?

Evidence#2--(include quote)

Connecting statement:

Evidence#3--(include quote)

Connecting statement:

Reason #2:

Evidence#1--(include quote)

Connecting statement:

Evidence#2--(include quote)

Connecting statement:

Evidence#3--(include quote)

Connecting statement:

Reason #3:

Evidence#1--(include quote)

Connecting statement:

Evidence#2--(include quote)

Connecting statement:

Evidence#3--(include quote)

Connecting statement:



Counter Argument (Reason against claim):

(See Countering Guide: <http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/countering.html>)

Evidence supporting counter claim--(include quote)

Connecting statement:

Evidence#1 refuting counterargument--(include quote)

Connecting statement:

Evidence#2 refuting counterargument--(include quote)

Connecting statement:

