

## Argument Essay Assignment Guidelines/Tips

After completing your four-square argument chart you will begin to draft your argument essay.

Remember, your introduction should have a “hook” (something that catches the reader’s attention) and your thesis statement (what you are going to prove/argue/discuss).

### Here is an example intro:

At least seventeen percent of new teachers in Oklahoma will leave the state or the profession after their first year. **(hook)** Why? Because Oklahoma consistently ranks last in teacher pay, teacher support, and classroom/student funding. Teachers are fighting a losing battle when it comes to respect, personal responsibility, and community support. If we want to ensure that education in Oklahoma will start to improve, then we must force our legislature to adequately fund education. **(Thesis)**

### You have some options when it comes to choosing how to format/formulate your paper:

**Hamburger:** In this format, you would take a stand, recognize the opposition’s opinion, then counter the opposition (meaning show why they are wrong).

**Set them up, knock them down:** In this format, you begin with the OTHER side’s argument and then spend the rest of the paragraph knocking it down (proving it wrong).

For the best results, I suggest alternating these formats.

### Conclusions:

DO:	DON'T:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ask a provocative question</li><li>• Leave with an interesting quotation</li><li>• Call for action</li><li>• Loop back to the anecdote in the introduction</li><li>• End with a warning</li><li>• Paint a strong image</li><li>• Express your hopes</li><li>• Answer the “so what?” question</li><li>• Point to broader implications (the fallout of what could happen)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Simply restate your thesis statement</li><li>• Introduce a brand new idea</li><li>• Focus on a minor point of the essay</li><li>• Use the following phrases: in conclusion, in summary, or in closing</li><li>• Add extra information that should have been in the body of the essay.</li></ul>