

## Building an Argumentative Research Paper

### 1. INTRODUCE PROBLEM OR RESEARCH QUESTION THAT IS PAPER'S FOCUS

- Provide factual background.
- Dramatize with an anecdote.
- Establish significance as a problem citing experts or observers.
- Explain your purpose: to change audience attitudes or behavior? To inform?

### 2. REVIEW THE LITERATURE

*What have others already said and how is that relevant to the problem or question?*

- Cite published studies, interviews, comments, experiments, etc.
- Address the problem or question.
- Address popular assumptions.

### 3. INTRODUCE YOUR ARGUMENT BASED ON EVIDENCE

- What does your understanding of others' arguments about the problem or question lead you to believe?
- State your argument or claim explicitly.

### 4. PRESENT THE EVIDENCE FOR YOUR ARGUMENT

*What are your reasons for believing what you believe? For each reason, what specific evidence did you find that convinced you?*

- Consider what kind of evidence your audience will find most persuasive.
- Include varied types of evidence.
- Address counter-arguments.

### 5. EXPLAIN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF YOUR ARGUMENT

*Why does this matter? What's at stake for your audience? What might be other avenues for research?*

- What might happen if the audience doesn't act?
- What questions remain?
- How does your argument resolve some part of the problem? What part remains unresolved?

