

Name:

Organization of an Argument

basic outline worksheet (claims* & methods**)

A Thesis Statement: also known as a **claim** that includes a clearly stated opinion (must be **debatable**), but does **not blurt out a personal judgement** (avoid "In this essay I will..."), is narrow enough or focused, but is also broad enough to write at least 3 body paragraphs, is clearly stated in specific terms, is easily recognized as the main idea, is forceful and direct (avoid "in my opinion" or "I think"), and should include the 3 main points of the argument.

Types of Claims*:			
Fact -Did something happen? i.e. Global warming – is it happening or not?	Definition- What is the Nature of the topic? i.e. Is a human fetus a human being?	Evaluation- What is the quality of the topic? i.e. Is a Corvette better than a Porsche?	Proposal- What action should be taken? i.e. How do we go about police reform?
My Claim:			
Methods (outlines)**:			
Toulmin Method	Rogerian Method	Classical Method	My Method:
Claim: explain thesis and make your main argument.	Introduction: Introduce the issue objectively.	Introduction (Exordium): Introduce the issue, explain its significance, or why it's important.	
Data (Grounds): use evidence to support the claim by providing facts that prove the claim.	Opposing View: Explain the other side's position in an unbiased way.	Statement of Background (Narratio): Present vital contextual or historical information.	
Warrant (Bridge): explain why or how your data supports the claim grounded in reason.	Statement of Validity (Understanding): acknowledge the other side's points, but still present your own argument.	Proposition (Propositio): state claims which relate to the information previously provided and outlining the major points.	
Backing (Foundation): provide any additional logic or reasoning that may be necessary to support the warrant.	Statement of Your Position: explain your own stance.	Proof (Confirmatio): explain your reasons and justifiable evidence through supplementary evidence and subpoints.	
Counterclaim: anticipate counterclaims that negate the main points in your argument	Statement of Contexts: Explore scenarios in which your position has merit.	Refutation (Refutatio): address, acknowledge anticipated counterarguments or perspectives but prove <i>why</i> your stance is more logical.	
Rebuttal: incorporate evidence that disagrees with the counterclaim.	Statement of Benefits: explaining the advantages of your argument, you close on a positive note without completely dismissing the other side's perspective.	Conclusion (Peroratio): summarize your main points. The conclusion also caters to the reader's emotions and values.	

*summarized from Andrea Lunsford's *Everything's an Argument*

** from Purdue <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>.