

Argumentative/Persuasive Writing

Sentence Starters

Introduction (Paragraph 1)

- Sentence 1: **HOOK:** Begin with a question, fact, anecdote, or simply a strong sentence: “Are school uniforms a blessing or a burden?” or “Mandatory school uniforms is a controversial issue in society today.”
- Sentence 2: **BACKGROUND INFO:** “Most private schools require...” or “Some public schools require...”
- Sentence 3: **BACKGROUND INFO:** “Some people believe....while others believe...”
- Sentence 4: **CLAIM/THESIS:** “School uniforms should be required in public schools because they REASON #1 and REASON #2.”

Body Paragraph (Paragraph 2)

- Sentence 1: **TOPIC SENTENCE:** School uniforms should be required because they Reason #1 (from Claim/Thesis).
- Sentence 2: **ELABORATE:** Explain Reason #1 further, using different words.
- Sentence 3: **EVIDENCE #1:** For example, in Source #1, the author states, “_____.”
- Sentence 4: **ELABORATE:** Explain what this evidence means.
- Sentence 5: **ELABORATE FURTHER:** It is important because _____.
- Sentence 6: **EVIDENCE #2:** The author also notes, “_____.”
- Sentence 7: **ELABORATE:** Explain what this evidence means.
- Sentence 8: **ELABORATE FURTHER:** It also means that _____.
- Sentence 9: **CONCLUDING SENTENCE:** Repeat Sentence 1, but use different words that drive the point home.

Body Paragraph (Paragraph 3): Same as Paragraph 2, but the first sentence of this paragraph should be:

In addition (or Also), school uniforms should be mandatory in public schools because they Reason #2 (from Claim/Thesis).

Body Paragraph (Paragraph 4): Similar to Paragraph 2 & 3, but the first sentence should be:

However (or On the other hand), some people do not believe school uniforms should be required because _____.
(In this paragraph, state at least one reason that is given by people who have an opposing claim/view to yours and then defend your claim by countering/attacking this reason.)

Conclusion (Final Paragraph)

- Sentence 1: In conclusion (or All in all or To conclude), school uniforms should be mandatory in public schools
- Sentence 2: Restate your claim and/or reasons in different words.
- Sentence 3: Briefly present a new thought: call to action, future implications, a different way to look at the issue, etc.
- Sentence 4: Final thought: leave your reader with a strong final thought.