

The Argument of Fact Essay
The Writing Center
Email: okc.tutoring@okstate.edu
Phone: 405-945-3278



A misconception is a popular opinion, a belief shared by most people, that is not necessarily factual. The point of this essay is to argue a popular opinion that you believe is misunderstood or wrong. In general, your thesis should be structured like, “Many people believe [popular opinion] is true, but actually, [your opinion] is true.” You’ll need to prove why your opinion is true using research from scholarly sources. Scholarly sources include peer-reviewed articles and books that have been published by a university and other academic publishers. Peer-reviewed articles are written by experts in a certain field and reviewed by scholars in the same field to make sure the information is well-researched and accurate.

The structure of this essay depends on whether your professor wants a **classical** or **delayed-thesis structure**. A classical structure introduction paragraph includes your hook, then background information (i.e. the bridge), then the thesis statement (see *figure 1*). The hook, or your opening statement, should be one sentence to get the reader’s attention. Then you’ll add relevant background information you believe the reader would need to understand your topic or argument. Lastly, you’ll add your thesis statement to the end of the paragraph.

A delayed-thesis structure includes the hook, then background information, then the explanation of how/why the popular opinion became so widely shared, and finally, the delayed thesis (see *figure 2*). Explaining how the popular opinion became widely accepted will require evidence to support the popular opinion. In a way, you are writing as if in support of your opposition, which increases your credibility with the reader. Exclude any opposition in this segment. Finally, you’ll add your thesis statement, effectively opposing all the points you highlighted in your explanation of the popular opinion using the **surprise reversal strategy**.

Figure 1

Classical Structure Introduction Paragraph
Hook - _____
Bridge - _____ _____ _____ _____
Thesis - _____

The Argument of Fact Essay
The Writing Center
Email: okc.tutoring@okstate.edu
Phone: 405-945-3278



Figure 2

<p>Delayed-Thesis Structure Introduction Paragraph</p> <p>Hook - _____</p> <p>Bridge -</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Explanation of How/Why the Popular Misconception is Accepted –</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Delayed Thesis - _____</p>
