



Classical Argument Guide

Writing Center Hours: 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM M-Th,
8:30 AM- 4:30 PM F, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM S-S
Email: okc.tutoring@okstate.edu
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Definition: The classical argument essay calls for you to take a stance on one side of a heated issue. You will need to present arguments as well as consider opposing arguments before refuting them.

Claim: This is your overall argument for the essay. Tell the reader what side of the issue you are on. This should appear in your thesis statement.

Examples:

- Thundergun is the greatest movie ever made.
- Wendy's is a terrible restaurant.
- The newest Iphone is far superior to any that have come before it.
- OSU-OKC is a fantastic place to study nursing.

Evidence: This is what you will use to directly support your claim. It is important for your evidence that you cite and quotes you may use in APA or MLA format. Here are some quick examples:

APA:

According to Hackney (2023), "The nursing program at OSU-OKC is one of a kind" (p. 42).

"The nursing program at OSU-OKC is one of a kind" (Hackney, 2023, p. 42).

MLA:

According to Hackney, "The nursing program at OSU-OKC is one of a kind" (42).

"The nursing program at OSU-OKC is one of a kind" (Hackney 42).



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Arguments: The argument is the criteria you will use to describe why your side is correct. It is often the “because” part of your argument. Basically, it is the reasoning behind your claim.

Thundergun is the best movie ever because it is funny.

↑
(Claim)

↑
(Argument)

Objection: You need to acknowledge what the opposing side believes about this issue. Be sure to present it in a way that does not say you are agreeing with them, you are merely stating what *they* believe.

Refutation: Now that you have stated what the opposite side thinks, tell us why they are wrong and you are right. It is important to use sound logic and solid reasoning. Your entire Objection/Refutation should look something like this:

Some people believe that Wendy’s is a great restaurant because

↑
(Objection)

they use fresh sea salt on their french fries and offer healthy

↑
← (Counter Argument)
salads.

However, these semi-healthy options do not make up for the

↑
(Refutation)

↓
extremely unhealthy options on the rest of their menu.