Expository Essay Outline

Directions: Use this outline as a “road map” to write your essay. If you need more examples or sentence starters, use page 2 to help you!

I. Introduction/Claim (3 points)
   A. Start with a hook or attention getting sentence.
   B. Briefly summarize the texts
   C. State your thesis. Your thesis is the sentence that outlines what your essay is going to be about. Make sure you are restating the prompt.

II. Body Paragraph: Evidence/Support (3 points)
   A. Include a topic sentence that restates your thesis topic for this paragraph and your reason.
      • Example: The character___________ undergoes a change caused by _________.
   B. Include text evidence that supports your reason.
      • Example: The author shows that the character’s change is caused by _________ because in paragraph two it states ____________
   C. Include an explanation (warrant) that shows how your text evidence proves your thesis.
      • Example: This proves that the character’s changes were caused by__________ because____.

III. Body Paragraph: Evidence/Support/Warrant (3 points)
   A. Include a topic sentence that restates your thesis topic for this paragraph and your reason.
      • Example: The character___________ undergoes a change caused by _________.
   B. Include text evidence that supports your reason.
      • Example: The author shows that the character’s change is caused by _________ because in paragraph two it states ____________
   C. Include an explanation (warrant) that shows how your text evidence proves your thesis.
      • Example: This proves that the character’s changes were caused by__________ because____.

IV. Body Paragraph: Evidence/Support/Warrant (3 points)
   A. Include a topic sentence that restates your thesis topic for this paragraph and your reason.
      • Example: The character___________ undergoes a change caused by _________.
   B. Include text evidence that supports your reason.
      • Example: The author shows that the character’s change is caused by _________ because in paragraph two it states ____________
   C. Include an explanation (warrant) that shows how your text evidence proves your thesis.
      • Example: This proves that the character’s changes were caused by__________ because____.

V. Conclusion (One paragraph) (1 points)
   Restate your claim and summarize your reasoning.
   • Example: In conclusion, the text shows that videogames are harmful by pointing out that_______

☆ Your essay is incomplete and cannot be graded without a thesis/claim and a counterclaim.
### Additional Examples and Sentence Starters

## I. INTRO-PARAGRAPH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. HOOK</th>
<th>CHOOSE ONE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B. EXPLAIN the ISSUE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain the issue.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduce the issue that your essay will be about before you state your thesis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Why is it an issue?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Why is it a problem or controversy?</td>
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### Types of Hook Sentences:

- Grab the reader’s attention with a thought
- Rhetorical Question— a question with an answer.
- Anecdote— a short story.
- Quotation— a line from a source.

### Explain sentence starter:

- The issue of _________ is a complex one. It’s about....
- The controversy is: _____________

### Claim Sentence Starters

- I observed _____________ when ___________.
- I compared _____________ and ___________.
- I noticed _________, when ________.

## II. Body paragraph(s) S.E.E. (2-3) III. Paragraphs Depending on the number of Selections!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. S. STATEMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TTQAA</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOPIC SENTENCES (INTRODUCES EVIDENCE = SUPPORTS CLAIM)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Topic Sentence Starters

- Turn the question or Prompt around (Restate) and answer it.
- A reason why (your main claim) is true because (state your argument).
- (state your argument) demonstrates that (main claim) is true.

### Evidence Sentence Starters

- According to the text...
- The author wrote...
- In the ___, paragraph the author stated....
- On page ___, the author stated...
- As the author mentioned on page__....

### Explain/Warrant/Reason Sentence Starters

- This evidence illustrates …, because...
- This conveys
- As a rule
- This suggests

## V. Counter-Claim Paragraph: Argument Essays must have a Counter-Claim!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. COUNTER-CLAIM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B. Explain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Why the Counter-claim argument is weak.</td>
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### Counter-claim Sentence Starters

- People who disagree may claim that “State the opposing side’s opposite claim”...
- Critics may claim that “state the opposing side’s claim”...

### Explain Counter-claim Sentence Starters

- This argument is weak because...
- On the contrary.....

## V. Conclusion

| A. Restatement of the Claim (Different words) |
| B. A summary of the evidence provided |
| C. Leave the reader with something to think about, a question, or something to do. |

### Conclusion Sentence Starters:

- In summary...
- In brief...
- To conclude...
- It has been shown that...
- To review...
- To summarize
Expository Essay Rubric

Directions: Edit your essay by following the directions below. Make sure that you have all parts of each component. Check it off of your list after you have highlighted, underlined, or circled it in your essay.

I. Introduction/Claim (One paragraph) (3 points) Points Earned: ____
   ____ Underline your hook Start with a hook or attention getting sentence.
   ____ Circle your text summary: Briefly summarize the texts.
   ____ Highlight your claim: State your thesis. Make sure you are restating the prompt. ⭐

II. Body Paragraph: Evidence/Support/Warrant (3 points) Points Earned: ____
    A) Highlight your topic sentence: Include a topic sentence that restates your thesis topic for this paragraph and your reason.
       • Example: The character____________ undergoes a change caused by ____________.
    B) Circle your text evidence: Include text evidence that supports your reason.
       • Example: The author shows that video games are harmful because in paragraph 2 it states___________.
    C) Underline your explanation: Include an explanation (warrant) that shows how your text evidence proved your claim.
       • Example: The author uses this evidence to show how/that____________.

III. Body Paragraph: Evidence/Support/Warrant (3 points) Points Earned: ____
    A) Highlight your topic sentence: Include a topic sentence that restates your claim and your reason.
       • Example: Video games are harmful because____________.
    B) Circle your text evidence: Include text evidence that supports your reason.
       • Example: The author shows that video games are harmful because in paragraph 2 it states___________.
    C) Underline your explanation: Include an explanation (warrant) that shows how your text evidence proved your claim.
       • Example: The author uses this evidence to show how/that____________.

IV. Body Paragraph: Evidence/Support/Warrant (3 points) Points Earned: ____
    A) Include a topic sentence that restates your thesis topic for this paragraph and your reason.
       • Example: The character____________ undergoes a change caused by ____________.
    B) Include text evidence that supports your reason.
       • Example: The author shows that the character's change is caused by ____________ because in paragraph two it states___________.
    C) Include an explanation (warrant) that shows how your text evidence proves your thesis.
       • Example: This proves that the character's changes were caused by__________ because______.

IV. Conclusion (One paragraph) (1 points) Points Earned: ____
   ____ Highlight your conclusion: Restate your claim and summarize your reasoning.
       • Example: In conclusion, the text shows that videogames are harmful by pointing out that ______

⭐ Your essay is incomplete and cannot be graded without a thesis/claim and a counterclaim.
Style and Language

Style and Language includes the correct use of the following:

- Appropriate style and an objective tone established and maintained.
- Clear and effective expression of ideas, using precise language
- Academic and domain-specific vocabulary clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose.
- Varied Sentence structure demonstrating language facility.

This essay demonstrated appropriate Style & Language: **Points Earned:**

- _____ Most of the time **(3 points)**
- _____ Some of the time (but was inconsistent) **(2 Points)**
- _____ Rarely **(1 point)**

Conventions

**Punctuation:**

- _____ 1) Do I use the end punctuation after all of my sentences?
- _____ 2) Do I use commas after introductory word groups and transitions?
- _____ 3) Do I use commas between equal adjectives?
- _____ 4) Do I punctuate dialogue correctly?
- _____ 5) Do I use apostrophes to show possessions (a boy’s bike)?

**Capitalization**

- _____ 6) Do I start all my sentences with capital letters?
- _____ 7) Do I capitalize all proper nouns?

**Spelling**

- _____ 8) Have I spelled all my words correctly?
- _____ 9) Have I double-checked the words my spell-checker may have missed?

**Grammar**

- _____ 10) Do I use correct forms of verbs (had gone, not had went)?
- _____ 11) Do my subjects and verbs agree in number?
- _____ 12) Do I use the right words (to, too, two)?

This essay demonstrated Conventions: **Points Earned:**

- _____ Most of the time **(3 points)**
- _____ Some of the time (but was inconsistent) **(2 Points)**
- _____ Rarely **(1 point)**

**Total Points Earned:** _____/ 19

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