

Writing Lab Workshop

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PLANNING

- An **argumentative essay** is a piece of writing that takes a stance on a controversial topic. This topic could stand two or more sides.
- Your goal is to choose a side and try to convince the reader that your side is the right side by listing your reasons for it.
- Your argumentative essay should be 500-600.
- Ex. Topic: should smoking be illegal?
Your argument: smoking **should be** illegal.
Reasons: 1- It would make people healthier.
2- It would be better for the environment.

Ms. Ann Newman's and Dr. Elizabeth's approved topics:

- At what age should children be allowed on social media?
- Should private schools be banned, and all students made to attend government schools?
- Should all college classes be taught online?
- Should parents allow children to have plastic surgery if they do not have obvious defects?
- Should doctor-assisted suicide be legal?

OUTLINING

1. Introduction
2. Body Paragraph 1 (Reason 1)
3. Body Paragraph 2 (Reason 2)
4. Conclusion

INTRODUCTION (smoking should be illegal)

1. **Hook (attention-getter)** (1 sentence)

Could be an interesting fact, statistic, or anecdote.

In Bhutan, it is illegal to sell tobacco or to smoke in public places.

2. **Background Information** (3-4 sentences)

General/introductory information about your topic (smoking/ banning smoking)

- Increased awareness about the dangers of smoking in recent years.
- Strict laws about smoking being implemented nowadays compared to past years.

3. **The topic controversial** (1 sentence)

people disagree on it.

- Some people think it should be legal because is a personal choice some people think it shouldn't.

4. **Thesis statement** (1 sentence)

Your position + reason 1 and reason 2

Smoking should be illegal because it would make people healthier and it would be better for the environment.

INTRODUCTION (smoking should be illegal)

- 1. Hook (attention-getter)** (1 sentence)
In Bhutan, it is illegal to sell tobacco or to smoke in public places.
- 2. Background Information** (3-4 sentences)
Awareness about the dangers of smoking has been increasing in recent years with more bans and regulations on smoking being implemented, so where 50 years ago it was possible to smoke on airplanes, nowadays it is prohibited. Additionally, many countries such as Canada and the UK, have completely banned smoking in indoor spaces.
- 3. Why is the topic controversial?** (1 sentence)
However, the topic of making smoking entirely illegal has been the cause of much debate, as some think it should stay legal because it is a personal choice while others believe it shouldn't.
- 4. Thesis statement** (1 sentence)
Smoking should be illegal because it would make people healthier and it would be better for the environment.

BODY PARAGRAPHS (1 AND 2)

1. **Topic sentence** (1 sentence)

Transition + reason 1

The first reason why smoking should be illegal is that it would make people healthier.

2. **Explanation/ Reasoning** (2-3 sentences)

- Smoking has many health risks
- People have easy access to cigarettes so they can easily put themselves at risk.
- By making smoking illegal, less people will smoke, so people will be healthier.

3. **Example** (1-2 sentences)

example of your reasoning: a scenario or a story or a general example

- People can find cigarettes in any grocery store and start smoking at any time, exposing themselves to those health risks.

4. **Concluding sentence** (1 sentence)

transition (in short, to sum, overall, all in all,) + paraphrase topic sentence

To sum up, by making smoking illegal, people would be less likely to smoke and subject themselves to health risks.

BODY PARAGRAPHS (1 AND 2)

1. **Topic sentence** (1 sentence)

The first reason why smoking should be illegal is that it would make people healthier.

2. **Explanation/ Reasoning** (2-3 sentences)

Smoking has been proven to cause many health risks such as cancer and heart and lung diseases. Because smoking is legal, people have easy access to cigarettes, and they can start smoking at any time and exposing themselves to all these unnecessary health risks. However, by making smoking illegal, people would be less likely to smoke, and they would be healthier.

3. **Example** (1-2 sentences)

For example, nowadays people can go to any grocery store and buy cigarettes and smoke them anywhere, but if cigarettes were illegal, things would be different. Not only would people have trouble finding and buying cigarettes, but also they would be too scared to smoke in public because they do not want to get in trouble.

4. **Concluding sentence** (1 sentence)

To sum up, by making smoking illegal, people would be less likely to smoke and subject themselves to health risks.

CONCLUSION

1. Restatement of the thesis (1 sentence)

In conclusion, smoking should be illegal because it would make people healthier and it would be better for the environment.

2. Summarize Body 1 (1-2 sentences)

First, by making smoking illegal, fewer people would pick up smoking and as a result, fewer people would suffer from unnecessary health risks such as cancer and heart disease.

3. Summarize Body 2 (1-2 sentences)

Second, making smoking illegal would be better for the environment because it would decrease the amount of toxic gases being released into the air.

4. Suggestion or prediction (1 sentence)

Therefore, governments all across the world should make smoking illegal in order to save the health of people and their planet.