**Argumentative Essay Outline and Guide**

**I. Introduction**

1. **Hook –** Strong statement, statistic, quote, anecdote, question
2. **Context –** Background information or why is this important to someone in today’s society
3. **Thesis/Claim –** What you believe. <https://awc.ashford.edu/writing-tools-thesis-generator.html>

**II. Body Paragraph I (Claim I)**

1. **Topic sentence –** begin this sentence with a transition word and then state what your first claim is about.
2. **Evidence –** begin this sentence with an evidence starter and then present your evidence from the text to back up your claim. This is a quote.
3. **Elaboration –** begin this sentence with an elaboration starter and then explain how the quote backs up your topic sentence.

**III. Counterclaim (what others might say)**

1. **Counterclaim –** The topic sentence of is paragraph. It should start by *some may argue that…*
2. **Transition Word *–*** However, on the contrary, while this may be true…
3. **Rebuttal *–*** Explain why your opponent is wrong.

**IV. Body Paragraph II (Strongest Claim)**

1. **Topic sentence –** begin this sentence with a transition word and then state what your second claim is about.
2. **Evidence –** begin this sentence with an evidence starter and then present your evidence from the text to back up your claim. This is a quote.
3. **Elaboration –** begin this sentence with an elaboration starter and then explain how the quote backs up your topic sentence.

**V. Conclusion**

1. **Restate your thesis/claim –** begin this sentence with a transition word and restate your claim/thesis in a different way.
2. **Summarize your rebuttal** – begin with others say or others think or others might believe.
3. **Summarize your reasons/claim** – restate why your claim is right!

**Helpful Hints**

* Indent the first sentence of the paragraph.
* Capitalize the first letter of a new sentence.
* Begin a new paragraph after the introduction, body paragraph I, counterclaim, and body paragraph II.
* Do not put “I believe” or “I think”!