



ARGUMENTATIVE TEXTS

DEFINITION → This is the type of essay where you prove that your opinion, theory or hypothesis about an issue is correct or more truthful than those of others. In short, it is very similar to the persuasive essay, but the difference is that you are arguing for your opinion as opposed to others, rather than directly trying to persuade someone to adopt your point of view.

STRUCTURE → The main structure of an argumentative text is:

THESIS PROS AND CONS CONCLUSION

EXAMPLE OF AN ARGUMENTATIVE TEXT → A UNIVERSITY IN EVERY TOWN

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| <p>THESIS (It introduces the main subject to the reader, along with the thesis to be defended and the general structure of the text).</p> | <p><i>The Turkish government is planning to open 15 new universities in developing provinces of Turkey. This is a response to pressure coming from local MPs who in turn voice the demands of their constituencies. However, while the already existing 85 universities are wrestling with financial and academic difficulties, it does not seem to be a good idea to add new universities to the system of higher education.</i></p> |
| <p>PROS AND CONS (The body of the text is made up of arguments in favour and against the main thesis. In an argumentative text, every paragraph supports and argument to support the main idea.)</p> | <p><i>First of all, the new universities will experience staffing problems. That is, they will have difficulty finding faculty that is qualified to teach in these budding universities. In our country the number of academicians who meet the academic requirements is limited. New universities will have two choices: either to draw from the existing pool or to employ under qualified people. To attract those instructors from other universities they will have to offer attractive incentives. However, since these will be state universities they will not have the necessary funds and most academics will be unwilling to go to small town universities where academic and life standards are below par. The only venue open to these universities will be to employ local professionals or under qualified instructors. The inevitable result will follow: a drop in the quality of education.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to recruitment problems, small town universities will have financial difficulties. The funds allocated to them by the state will not be enough to build from scratch all the facilities that make a university a "real university". A university is more than a few classrooms. Students will need dorms, gyms, cafeterias, sports facilities, labs and computers for their academic and social development. How many new universities can claim to have only a few of these facilities on their campuses? The result will be a small town "university" which consists of a sole building that houses classrooms and offices, and nothing more.</i></p> <p><i>It is argued that the establishment of a university in a developing town will contribute to the development of local culture, community and economy. However, if a university is wrestling with staff recruitment problems, or if it cannot solve its financial difficulties it means that it cannot be of any help to the local community or economy either. It will only employ a few locals, provide substandard education to a few local youth, and it will not fulfill the aim for which it was initially established.</i></p> |

| <p>CONCLUSION (It summarises the topic and states the writer's opinions).</p> | <p><i>To sum up, Universities are institutions of higher education and they need to provide education to satisfy certain standards. In order to provide such quality education they need to have qualified teachers and must provide minimum social and academic facilities. Since funds are limited, we should raise the standard of our existing universities first. Only after that, should we invest in establishing new ones.</i></p> |
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| LINGUISTIC ASPECTS | USEFUL EXPRESSIONS |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *First person narrator use and verbs of feelings and opinion. * Use transition words when moving between arguments and most importantly when moving from pros to cons and vice versa. * Use of present tenses. *Connectors: Addition/Succession/Cause/Consequence/Opposition. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Personally / I think... *It's fact that... *It's true that... * On the one hand,... * On the other hand... * In contrast, in addition... *Moreover... *In my opinion/ In conclusion/ To sum up... |