

Outline for 5 Paragraph Argumentative Essay

You are trying to convince the reader that the side you picked is the stronger of the two arguments. You will not be able to do any outside research so all the information you write is coming from your brain, and the two articles given. Follow the outline below to help prove your point.

(Pro-Tip: Memorize this structure for the HiSET!)

1. Introduction:

- a. Get the reader’s attention. Use an interesting fact/detail about your topic or ask a thought provoking question.

For example: *Are you tired of working 40+ hours a week and just barely making enough money to pay your bills? Well, so am I, which is why I support local government efforts to raise the minimum wage standard.*

- b. Thesis Statement: “I believe....because....” (find 2 reasons from article and write them. Reason A and Reason B).

For example: *I believe minimum wage should be higher because (A) it will help residents across the country make a better life for themselves and their families, and (B) the cost of living is rapidly increasing and the current wage is not suitable for everyday life.*

2. Body Paragraph:

- a. Reason A from thesis statement (re-word your reason so that you aren’t too repetitive)

For example: *Every family in America should be given the opportunity to make an acceptable wage so they are able to improve their daily lives.*

- b. Evidence to support **Reason A**. Use specific examples and/or facts. Be sure to give credit if you quote the article. Don't try to pass their words off as yours.

- c. Connect **Reason A** back to today's world with a personal experience or observation:

3. Body Paragraph:

- a. **Reason B** from thesis statement (re-word your reason so you aren't too repetitive):

For example: *The cost of essential items is going up every day due to inflation, and hardworking people are struggling to pay their bills, and put food on the table for their families.*

- a. Evidence to support **Reason B**. Use specific examples and/or facts. Be sure to give credit if you quote the article. Don't try to pass their words off as yours.

- b. Connect **Reason B** back to today's world with a personal experience or observation:

4. Counter Claim & Rebuttal:

- a. The other side of the argument (use a transition word) and explain why this side is not valid and why you don't support it:

For example: *On the other hand, some people believe that raising minimum wage will hurt consumers, economies, and small businesses. However, studies show that raising minimum wage increased household spending and increased job growth.*

- b. Connect this back to today's world with a personal experience or observation:

5. Conclusion:

- a. Restate your main/original argument (re-word your main argument to avoid being repetitive, begin with a transition word) and summarize your main points. Do not introduce any new information:

Write your "Final Draft" here. Be sure to indent at the start of each paragraph so that the reader can definitively tell where one paragraph ends and the next one begins. Watch your grammar and your punctuation. Make sure you stay on topic and you are connecting your ideas back to your thesis statement.

You must score at least a 2 on the essay portion to pass. Below are examples of a 2 and a 6. It would be helpful to use these examples as a model for your own essay. Try to fall somewhere between a 2 and a 6.

Score 2

I think businesses should allow casual clothes. On regular days its ok to leave the suite at home because it improves everyones state of mind to wear cloths they choose instead of cloths they don't like. But if you have important days you should "dress professionally" like the second article said. One problem I see at my work is nowadays folks don't know how to dress nice. Maybe the boss needs to talk to them about whats nice and whats casual if they know the difference they won't make the mistake on the important days. Also some people don't have money to by expensive fancy dresses or slacks for work and that's not fare either. I say let us dress casual accept on special days.

Score 6

From flappers in the 1920s to the hippie movement of the 1960s, every decade has featured a debate about what is and is not appropriate attire. Although we are in a new millennium, the concern over others' perceptions based on clothing has not changed. Thus is the issue over casual clothing in the workplace.

As fashion trends have changed, so have workplace dress codes. The "gray flannel suit" has a long history, with its origins in formal dress appropriate to wear in a king's court. Since those days, the business suit has undergone many changes for many reasons. For example, during World War II, wool was rationed, and men's suits became more simple. Lapels were smaller and pants were no longer cuffed, which saved fabric. Overall, suits were considered a sort of uniform for both male and female businesspeople.

Decades later another shift took place: "start-up enterprises began in dorm rooms, garages, and basements" (Dressing for Creativity article). Anything "traditional" was out, and the business world embraced informality out of the belief that it encouraged creativity and company morale. Professionalism remains even though CEOs and VPs wear jeans and T-shirts instead of suits and ties. This laid-back attire has removed the gilded-ness which existed in the corporate world where the "dog and pony show" indicated a company was successful. Casual attire in the workplace establishes focus ON business rather than "the look of the company." I know a lot of technology workers who have never worn a suit, and I consider all of them to be very professional.

Opponents of casual attire claim productivity suffers, attitudes become lax and customer trust decreases. However, none of these inherently improve by requiring employees to wear professional attire. Productivity can suffer if executives make poor decisions which adversely affect output. Attitudes can become lax if employees are dissatisfied at work for reasons other than being unable to wear casual clothing. Customers can distrust a company due to poor manufacturing instead of speaking to someone in a suit and tie.

While professional attire and standard uniforms still have their place in the world of work, the shift to casual attire in the office is simply that – a shift attributed to a change in perspective which naturally occurs in society.