

Plan Your Argument

| Factor to Consider | Reason to Consider |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
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| Factor NOT to Consider | Reason NOT to Consider |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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| | |

Write Your Thesis

SAMPLE 1: When considering ISSUE, FACTOR 1 and FACTOR 2 should be the priority because REASON 1 and REASON 2.

SAMPLE 2: If a company/agency wants to ISSUE, it must acknowledge that FACTOR 1 and FACTOR 2 remain the most important considerations because REASON 1 and REASON 2.

Choose one of the sentence frames provided above and construct your own thesis. You may need to adjust the wording to fit the prompt.

Defensible Thesis Checklist

Specific factors ✓

Rationale for considering these factors ✓

Concession and Refutation

Concession: acknowledging the value in the opposing position

Refutation: proving a statement wrong or false (thus asserting one's position as correct)

Sample 1: Yes, LESS IMPORTANT FACTOR is important because REASON; however, FACTOR 1 and FACTOR 2 remain the priority because REASON.

Sample 2: Although one cannot ignore LESS IMPORTANT FACTOR, one cannot ignore the fact that CLAIM because REASON.

Using the sentence frames above, write your own concession and refutation. You may need to adjust the wording a bit to fit the prompt.

Counterclaim and Rebuttal

Counterclaim: the opposite stance

Rebuttal: asserting one's own position by refuting the counterclaim

Sample 1: Some may argue that COUNTERCLAIM, yet they fail to acknowledge REBUTTAL.

Sample 2: Opponents of ISSUE suggest COUNTERCLAIM; however they fail to consider REBUTTAL.

Using the sentence frames above, write your own counterclaim and rebuttal. You may need to adjust the wording a bit to fit the prompt.

Plan Your Essay

Write your hook in the box below. Provide context of the issue you intend to address. Why is this issue a matter worth discussing? What are the different perspectives on this issue?



Write a defensible thesis in the box below. Put a box around your references to factors and circle any references to reasons.



Body Paragraph One

Topic Sentence:

| Evidence | Direct Quote or Paraphrase? | Source? |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| | | |

Select one of the following verbs to include in your commentary: highlights, signifies, or implies.

Commentary:

Body Paragraph One

Choose a transition word: similarly, conversely, furthermore, etc.

| Evidence | Direct Quote or Paraphrase? | Source? |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------|
| | | |

Select one of the following verbs to include in your commentary: illustrates, demonstrates, or portrays.

Commentary:

Concluding Sentence:

Body Paragraph Two

Topic Sentence:

| Evidence | Direct Quote or Paraphrase? | Source? |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| | | |

Select one of the following verbs to include in your commentary: highlights, suggests, or reveals.

Commentary:

Body Paragraph Two

Choose a transition word: as such, therefore, additionally, etc.

| Evidence | Direct Quote or Paraphrase? | Source? |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------|
| | | |

Select one of the following verbs to include in your commentary: illustrates, demonstrates, or portrays.

Commentary:

Concluding Sentence:

Body Paragraph Three

Topic Sentence:

| Evidence | Direct Quote or Paraphrase? | Source? |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| | | |

Select one of the following verbs to include in your commentary: highlights, suggests, or reveals.

Commentary:

Body Paragraph Three

Choose a transition word: as such, therefore, additionally, etc.

| Evidence | Direct Quote or Paraphrase? | Source? |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------|
| | | |

Select one of the following verbs to include in your commentary: illustrates, exhibits, or conveys..

Commentary:

Concluding Sentence:

Conclusion Paragraph

Restate your thesis using different words. Make sure it is still defensible.

Add some concluding commentary. You may consider addressing any of the following: What will happen if this issue is not addressed? What will happen if we do prioritize these factors? Who or what will benefit the most? How?
