

Logical Argumentation

When writing an Argumentative Essay, you want to be sure that you are using sound logic to make your points. It often helps to think of your essay argument as a conversation with another person. For example:

Writer: "The United States needs to implement stricter gun control laws."

Responder: "I disagree. The gun control laws in the US are fine."

Writer: "No, the US needs to implement stricter gun control laws because people die from gun violence in the US at an unusually high rate, other similarly developed countries have much stricter laws (and fewer deaths), and there is no need for citizens to have access to assault weapons."

Responder: "I am still not so sure. The second amendment says..."

Writer: "Let me explain each reason. First, the number of people in the US that die as a result of gun violence each year..."

This dialogue helps do three things:

- (1) determine if you have an arguable thesis (as opposed to a statement of fact);
. the first thing the writer says is the argument of the essay
- (2) decide on main points that will support the argument (and convince the responder);
. the second thing the writer says contains the main points of the essay
- (3) raises possible objections or holes in the argument (that can weaken the essay).
. the second thing the responder says is a common objection and can help develop stronger points in opposition (or can help with a counter argument)

Obviously, this is a simplified form of the argument, but it is a good tool to get started.

