Basic Format of an Argumentative Essay

1. Introduction

-provide context (explanation) of the topic and explain why it is an important topic

-include thesis (whether you AGREE or DISAGREE w/prompt but don’t have to state the reasons yet)

2. 1st body paragraph (Follow the 8-sentence paragraph model)

-transition

-state the 1st reason you agree or disagree

-introduce and include 1st textual evidence to back up reason

-analyze what that quote tells us

-transition to 2nd textual evidence

-analyze what that quote tells us

3. 2nd body paragraph (Follow the 8-sentence paragraph model)

-transition

-state the 2nd reason you agree or disagree

-introduce and include 1st textual evidence to back up reason

-analyze what that quote tells us

-transition to 2nd textual evidence

-analyze what that quote tells us

4. Counterclaim paragraph

-Transition

-Explain the opposing viewpoint’s argument very well

-Disprove their viewpoint (explain why you still believe their side is wrong) and use at least ONE piece of evidence to help your rebuttal

5. Conclusion