

Argumentative Essay Worksheet

Religion and Society: Fall, 2009

The goal of the argumentative essay is to **state a thesis of your own and to support that thesis with good reasons**. Since the goal of the paper is to present and support your own thesis, it's important that you organize the paper around those tasks. In writing your paper, be sure to distinguish the "brainstorming" or "pre-writing" phase, in which you are *searching* for your thesis, from the "composing" phase, in which you are actually framing your whole paper and organizing into a coherent whole. When you compose your paper, you should be able to say, for each paragraph of the paper, how it furthers your overall purpose of presenting and supporting your thesis.

When you have completed your draft argumentative essay, you should be able to identify, and **your reader** should be able to identify, each of the following as distinct sentences in the paper. As an exercise, try filling in the following with direct quotes from your paper **after** you have completed your draft:

Your thesis:

Each of the main reasons for your thesis (probably, no more than three):

1.

2.

3.