**What is a good argumentative essay?**

A good essay is one where you convince the reader of the validity of an argument, or clearly expose a problem. To do this you must:

 - present valid arguments

 - organize your work clearly

 - take the reader on a logical journey from point *a* to *b*

The essay must be easy to follow.

If you:

 - make lots of grammar mistakes

 - write long complicated sentences which are hard to follow

 - write in tiny handwriting, or scribble

 - just translate from French

 - use poor vocabulary, or decorate your work with non-appropriate expressions

Well, then you hamper the reader. It does not matter how valid the arguments, the reader will get lost, be frustrated and confused.

**Some advice**:

**Introduction** : one or two sentences for context, then your thesis statement or a question.

**Main body of the essay :**  It’s often a good idea to present opposing arguments first: *it may/might be said/claimed* or *some people say/claim/* etc. You must use *may* etc. to show that these are not your opinions. Then give your arguments one by one.

Make sure to finish the main body of the essay with an argument which is reinforced by the conclusion: your conclusion should follow on from the final argument which precedes it.

**Conclusion** : Try not to just repeat, try to find the logical conclusion to what you have written. If you do repeat your thesis statement, try to vary the language a little.

In general, try to avoid being too binary: just saying here are the *pros* and now the *cons* and *hey presto*, *the conclusion* is not very good. Try to nuance your arguments and work on a progression.

NB Never use the expressions ‘*pros and cons’* in an essay!