

# Argumentative Academic Vocabulary List



Terms	Definitions
<b>academic vocabulary</b>	Academic vocabulary means the words and phrases that are specific to a subject, task, or topic of study.
<b>argument</b>	An argument (or argumentative essay) attempts to persuade the reader to agree with the writer's claim or position on an issue, using evidence and reasoning to support its ideas.
<b>audience</b>	Your audience is anyone who might read your essay. You should assume that the reader has limited knowledge of the topic, so explain all ideas completely and clearly.
<b>background/prior knowledge</b>	Background knowledge is the information that is needed to understand a topic or situation.
<b>bias</b>	When writers show their bias, they describe something positively because they like it, or negatively because they dislike it, instead of describing it fairly and letting the readers decide.
<b>body</b>	The body of an essay is the middle section that contains one or more paragraphs; it provides support for the claim with appropriate evidence and reasoning.
<b>claim</b>	A claim is a position or statement on a topic, an opinion with which others might disagree.
<b>clarity</b>	Clarity means that your ideas are written clearly and are easily understood by others.
<b>cohesion</b>	Cohesion means that you have presented your ideas in a way that shows how they relate. When your writing is cohesive, it is clear how each idea connects to your argument.
<b>conclusion</b>	The conclusion is the last paragraph of an essay; it restates the claim and leaves the reader your final thoughts about the topic.
<b>counterargument</b>	The counterargument is the opposing side to an argument or position on an issue.
<b>counterclaim</b>	A counterclaim is reasoning or support that is in direct opposition to a claim.
<b>credible/credibility</b>	A source's credibility is what makes it believable, or the reasons why the reader should trust this source as telling the truth.
<b>development</b>	Developing your ideas means that you explain them completely, offering evidence and reasoning to support each point.
<b>evidence</b>	Evidence is a statement of truth that confirms your ideas, like a statistic, fact, quotation from a source, or other supporting example.
<b>figurative language</b>	Figurative language is when a writer uses words or expressions that are not meant to be understood literally.

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<b>formal</b>	Formal writing means that you speak to the reader in an academic way, using the third-person point of view, vocabulary specific to the topic, and a serious tone.
<b>hook</b>	A hook is an interesting statement about the topic made at the start of an essay in order to grab the reader's attention.
<b>imagery/sensory language</b>	Imagery and sensory language are the use of descriptions that appeal to the reader's senses in order to create vivid experiences through the text.
<b>informal</b>	Informal writing is the way you speak to your friends; it is casual and conversational, and not appropriate for academic writing.
<b>introduction</b>	The introduction is the first paragraph of an essay; it provides background information about the topic and focuses the reader's attention on the claim that the rest of the essay will support.
<b>literal language</b>	Literal language is when the words a writer uses mean exactly what they say.
<b>main idea</b>	The main idea means the main point or most important thought about something.
<b>metaphor</b>	A metaphor is a figure of speech that makes a direct comparison between two typically unlike things, without the use of linking phrases.
<b>mood</b>	The mood of a story is the atmosphere or feeling the author creates, through descriptions of the setting and characters and the pacing of events.
<b>narrator</b>	The narrator is the character who is telling the story; the narrator's knowledge of events can be limited or all-knowing.
<b>objective</b>	Writing that is objective is free from bias or emotions; it presents the facts about a topic, or a perspective on an issue, with valid evidence and fair reasoning.
<b>organization</b>	Organization is the way you present ideas in your essay; a predictable structure helps your reader focus on important information and anticipate what is to follow.
<b>paragraph</b>	A paragraph is a section of text in an essay that includes sentences related to the same topic or idea. In academic writing, the structure of a paragraph should consist of a topic sentence and relevant details to support it.
<b>personification</b>	Personification is a type of figurative language in which a writer gives human characteristics to nonhuman things.
<b>perspective</b>	Perspective is the way someone views a topic, information, events, or other characters.

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<b>point of view</b>	Point of view is the perspective from which the essay is written. Argumentative essays should be written from the third person perspective, using pronouns like he, she, and they, to describe the writers' ideas. Essays typically should not be written from the first person perspective, using pronouns like I, me, and my.
<b>position</b>	Your position on an issue is your view or opinion on it, or the side with which you agree.
<b>purpose (task)</b>	The purpose or task means what you are being asked to do, or what the prompt asks you to write about, specifically.
<b>quote/quotation</b>	A quotation is a piece of text found in a source (a fact, statistic, comment, etc.) that you surround with quotation marks and include in your essay because it supports your ideas.
<b>reason/reasoning</b>	Reasoning is an explanation you provide to the readers that convinces them that your ideas make sense.
<b>relevant</b>	Relevant means something is appropriate, connected to, or related to the current topic.
<b>sentence structure</b>	Sentence structure is the way you present your ideas in a sentence; sentences can be short and simple or long and compound or complex.
<b>simile</b>	A simile is a figure of speech that makes a comparison between two typically unlike things, using the linking phrases "like" or "as."
<b>source</b>	The source is the place from where you received information, like a text, video, graphic, etc.
<b>style</b>	In writing, style is the way you use words to affect the reader; this may include word choice, sentence structure, or figurative language to create imagery, mood, or meaning in the text.
<b>support</b>	When you support your ideas, you provide proof of why they are true, through direct evidence (facts, quotes, or statistics) and reasoning (explanations).
<b>symbol</b>	A symbol can be an object or action that represents something deeper than what it appears to be.
<b>text organization</b>	Text organization refers to the way information in a text is presented to the reader; common structures include chronological order, compare/contrast, cause/effect, and problem/solution.
<b>tone</b>	Tone is the perspective, attitude, or emotion the writer has about the topic, revealed through his or her choices in language.
<b>topic sentence</b>	A topic sentence tells the reader what the main idea of the paragraph is.

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<b>transition</b>	A transition is a word or phrase that helps the reader see the connection between your ideas and how they relate to one another.
<b>unbiased</b>	When your writing is unbiased, you describe things in a fair and factual way. The writing is free from personal opinions and persuasive language; the topic is discussed objectively and the readers are equipped to make up their own minds.
<b>vocabulary</b>	Vocabulary means the words you use to express your ideas; using specific vocabulary helps the reader to better understand your ideas.
<b>voice</b>	Your voice as a writer is the way you express yourself; your tone and style contribute to your voice.
<b>word choice</b>	Word choice means the vocabulary you use to express your ideas.