Below is an outline for you to follow. It clearly states what belongs in each section of your paper. If you find yourself wanting to “break outside of the box”, discuss it with me.

***YOU MUST SHOW ME YOUR COMPLETED OUTLINE BEFORE YOU LEAVE TODAY!!!

Argumentative Essay Outline

I. Introduction
   a. Hook
   b. Bridge
   c. Thesis Statement

II. Counter-Claim #1 (Or Con Point #1)
   a. Answer to question: What claim can be made against your argument?
   b. Cite evidence that supports the counter-claim.
   c. Explain why you believe this evidence is unconvincing.
   d. State why this rejection is significant to your thesis.

III. Counter-Claim #2 (DO NOT DO THIS IF DOING “B” VERSION)
   a. Answer to the question: What other claim can be made against your argument?
   b. Cite evidence that supports the counter-claim.
   c. Explain why you believe this evidence is unconvincing.
   d. State why this rejection is significant to your thesis.

IV. Claim #1
   a. Answer to the question: What subclaim supports your overall argument?
   b. Cite evidence that supports your subclaim.
   c. Explain evidence.
   d. State why discussion of this subclaim is significant to your thesis.

V. Claim #2
   a. Answer the question: What other subclaim supports your overall argument?
   b. Cite evidence that supports your subclaim.
   c. Explain evidence.
   d. State why discussion of this second subclaim is significant to your thesis.

VI. Conclusion
   a. Restate your argument in a new way.
   b. Summarize the main ideas in your body paragraphs.
   c. Tell the reader why this topic matters.

Confused? ASK FOR HELP 😊
Writing Effective Introductions: A Magic Trick (sort of)

Think back to the first time you met me. Chances are I smiled warmly, shook your hand, and asked your name. I probably asked you something about yourself and let you know what class I teach, just to make sure you were in the right spot. I did not—I am sure—mumble under my breath, avoid eye contact, or growl, “Sit over there. You’re early, so I’m not ready to start class!” Obviously, I wanted to make a good first impression, so I took steps to communicate to you that you were welcome in my class and I was excited about the chance to get to know you better.

Well, as a writer, you need to make a conscious effort to be warm and welcoming to your reader. You want your reader to think, “Now THIS person is clever and warm and interesting. I want to read MORE of what he or she has to write.” To get this reaction, you need to create a stylish, memorable, and effective introduction.

The three parts of any effective introduction

**HOOK:** an attention-grabbing strategy that engages the reader (see separate list). Effective hooks typically “begin somewhere else,” and, remember...

**I HATE QUESTIONS!!!! 😎**

**BRIDGE:** A group of sentences that smoothly shift the focus of the writing from the hook to the MAIN TOPIC of the essay. An effective bridge is perhaps the trickiest component of an engaging introduction, as there is not one clear way to accomplish this transition.

**NOTE:** The thesis does not have to be the last sentence of the introduction, but for now you will put them there.

**THESIS**

Thesis statements contain a SUBJECT and OPINION. They need to be an ARGUMENT the essay will explain and prove.
Effective HOOK Techniques:

**TAKE A RISK:** No matter which technique you use, BE ORIGINAL and take a risk. Boring writing is predictable writing. Do something different...and a little weird.

**Begin with a question:** I know you have been taught to begin with an interesting question. Here’s the problem. Your question isn’t interesting. I know you think it is, but it isn’t. Beginning with a question is a lazy, unimaginative way to begin your piece. You are more creative. DO SOMETHING ELSE.

**Quotation or Statistic:** This method is also pretty lazy, unless your quotation or statistic is particularly engaging. I encourage you to use another technique, but if you feel you have a great quote or statistic, you might use this technique off.

**Personal story:** Readers respond to a personality, so share a short story about a moment in your life. You can accomplish quite a bit in a few short sentences if you give the reader an intimate, memorable “slice of life.”

**Anecdote:** Again, tell a brief story but take it from someone else’s life. You do not need to use your story. EXAMPLE: Before efficient extraction methods developed in the late 1880s, aluminum was VERY difficult to mine. As a result, pure aluminum was more valuable than gold. Napoleon gave banquets where the most honored guests were given aluminum utensils, while the others made do with gold.

**Metaphor:** Creating your own metaphor or analogy is a wonderful way to add style to your writing. Beginning with your own comparison shows you understand so well that you can illustrate nuances through your own figurative language. Mastering the metaphor should be a goal of any writer.

**Unexpected Claim:** “There are more slaves in the world today than at any point in human history.” This statement seems to be false, but it is actually true. Beginning your essay with an unexpected claim can be very effective.

**Vivid Description:** Paint a word picture for your reader, focusing in on some object, place, or moment that connects to your general topic. If you can create memorable imagery, your readers will be more likely to engage with your essay.

**Humor:** If the situation calls for it, humor can be incredibly effective. Of course, humor is the most difficult tone to create in writing, but if you can pull it off...go for it.

??Your Choice???: This is not an exhaustive list. Try some other strategy not listed here. The most important thing is to be ORIGINAL and MEMORABLE.
How do I write a Conclusion?

A conclusion is important in any essay, but in an argumentative essay, it is the chance for you to convince your reader one last time of your claim. Why is it so important that they agree with you? What does agreeing with you mean for our understanding of the world?

Convincing your reader requires that you:

1. **Restate your thesis statement** (your argument) in slightly different words. You want to hit your point home, but don’t want it to sound exactly the same.

2. **Summarize your main arguments** in 2 to 4 sentences. Make sure the reader remembers why you rejected some claims, and why you supported others.

3. **Help the reader understand why this topic matters.** This is the hardest part when you are writing history essays, but you want to consider answering one of the following questions:
   - How does agreeing with me impact the way we approach situations like this in the present and in the future?
   - How does agreeing with me necessitate trying to fix past wrongs?
   - How does agreeing with me change the way we see history, and therefore, change the way we understand the world?
   - OR answer a question that you develop yourself.