**C. The Argumentative Paragraph**

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| **1. Definition**  An **argumentative paragraph** presents a **point of view** and provides **evidence** and **reasons** for the point of view taken. It addresses a **specific position** on an issue with the intention of **persuading** (convincing) readers.  **-The Topic Sentence** identifies what is being argued for or against. |
| **-The Supporting Sentences** include **facts** and **examples** to back up your point of view. Present your reasons in order of importance: from the most important to the least important. |
| **-The Concluding Sentence** restates what is being argued for or against and why.  **2. Useful transitional words and phrases**  **-For giving reasons:** first, second, third, another, next, last, finally, because, since, for.  **-For counter-argument:** but, however, of course, nevertheless, although, despite.  **-For concluding:** therefore, as a result, in conclusion, thus. |

**3. Example**

**Smoking**

             There are many reasons why I do not smoke. First, smoking is unhealthy. It can cause lung cancer, and it can lead to an early death. Furthermore, smoking is expensive. A pack of cigarettes costs five dollars. If I bought one pack of cigarettes every day, I would spend over $1500 each year. Lastly, cigarettes smell bad. When people smoke, you can smell the cigarettes on their clothes all day. For example, the other night, I went to a restaurant that allowed smoking. After I left, all of my clothes smelled terrible, as did my hair. If I were a smoker, I would smell that way all the time. To sum up, I do not smoke because it is unhealthy, expensive, and unattractive.

**\*In the example, identify:**

1. The topic 2. Three reasons that support the thesis

3. An explanation or example for each reason 4. Three transition words

**Exercise: Write an argumentative paragraph on the following topic:**

\* Romantic love is a poor basis for marriage.