

# Choose a Topic Essay Assignment

Students often feel they do not receive an opportunity to discuss or argue the issues they care about.

In this assignment, you will have the opportunity to write an **argumentative essay** on a topic of your choice.\* You can write about a social issue you believe in, the education system in America, a particular movie you hate; the possibilities are endless.

The only requirement is that this must be a grade and class appropriate essay. That means:

1. The topic must be approved by the teacher\*
2. It must follow an essay format and:
  - a. Have MLA heading, formatting, citations, Times New Roman 12 pt. font
  - b. Be at least three pages in length
  - c. Have a clear thesis and argument
  - d. Have a counter argument
  - e. Have clear body paragraphs; each with a new idea and support
  - f. Have a conclusion that wraps everything up efficiently
  - g. Have a works cited with at least two sources

Remember: An argumentative essay is a genre of writing that requires the student to investigate a topic; collect, generate, and evaluate evidence; and establish a position on the topic in a concise manner.

If you have trouble selecting a topic, please meet with the teacher to brainstorm possible ideas.

**My Topic is:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Introduction:**

**Hook:** How will I get the reader's attention?

**Topic Information:** Give some brief background, or necessary information to introduce the topic.

**Counter Argument:** Counters your thesis. The view of a person who disagrees with your position.

**Thesis:** Your main argument, usually three points you will address in your essay.

Counter argument, + Argument + Reason 1, Reason 2, and Reason 3.

## **Body Paragraphs:**

**Paragraph 1:** Argument 1 and Support

**Paragraph 2:** Argument 2 and Support

**Paragraph 3:** Argument 3 and Support

Don't forget the **Counter Argument** in one of the body paragraphs, or in its own paragraph.

## **Conclusion**

Wrap Up: Restate thesis

End on a high note

Do not introduce a new idea.

On the back, there is a sample outline/essay to help you with the process.

Remember it is just a starting point and not the complete essay.

**My Topic is:** Pixar's *Up* is not a good movie.

### **Introduction:**

**Hook:** *Toy Story* is a good movie.

*Toy Story*, Pixar's first movie, changed the way people look at cartoons because it introduced real characters. These characters are classic good Disney characters, but they are also jealous, manipulative, a little weird, and some even have an existential crisis. Since then, Pixar has been known for their beautiful movies that find a way of being relatable and warming people's hearts.

**Topic Information:** *Up* is about ....

In 2009, Pixar released *Up*; a movie that pretended to have heart. The story focuses on a grumpy man, Carl Fredrickson, and his desire to fulfill his deceased wife's wish of going to Paradise Falls. He straps balloons to his house and uses them to float away towards South America, not realizing he has a young boy, Russell, on the property.

**Counter Argument:** Many people like *Up*.

Although this movie is beloved by old and young alike,

**Thesis:**

*Up* is a cliché filled, one-dimensional film with unreasonable outcomes.

### **Body Paragraphs:**

**Paragraph 1: Cliché's:** Grumpy old man, Innocent child, Goofy dog, and Evil villain that kills people.

*Up* is voted number 116 on the "IMDB Top 250," which is a list of the top 250 movies of all time. Many people enjoy *Up* because it is a simple story of a man, a child, and a dog. Who doesn't love that? However, that is exactly the problem: the story is very cliché. The movie stars a grumpy old man, an innocent child, a goofy dog, and a wacky bird. One would assume there is more to the characters, but there isn't. If there is it can simply be simplified to, there is something sad about them the audience may or may not know yet....

**Paragraph 2: One dimensional: Idolizes/Loves someone. Leads to heartbreak. Sad/Angry. Heart repaired.**

The movie becomes frustrating to watch over time as the audiences realizes that the same story that was beautifully told in the first ten minutes is repeated and told in over an hour. The story of Carl and his wife Ellie is beautiful. It starts with them as children when Carl idolizes aviator Charles Muntz, and aspires to be like him. However, after Muntz is declared a fraud, Carl is heartbroken. However, Ellie is there to fill his world with love until he forgets his heartbreak. Again, that happens in the first 10 minutes. After which, the next hour and a half is about Carl's heartbreak, again, but this time of losing Ellie, and how Russell teaches him to get over his heartbreak...

**Paragraph 3: Unreasonable Outcomes: Unnecessary death in an animated movie.**

Charles Muntz is an aviator and a hero. He comes back from one trip and tells the people of a magical bird he saw. People ridicule him, mock him, and he loses his fans and respect. All because the people are unreasonable. Pixar would surely offer the man a happy ending where he proves himself right, and the people learn a valuable lesson. Instead in this critically acclaimed movie, Muntz falls from a blimp and dies, and the people learn nothing....

### **Conclusion**

**Restate Thesis:** *Up* is cliché, one dimensional, and had unreasonable outcomes.

It is evident that Pixar didn't think things through with this project. Otherwise they would have written better characters, had an interesting plot, and given the film a resolution that made sense.

**End on a high note:**

However, they opted for the easy way out, because audiences will watch it and love it anyway because they're Pixar and can easily climb into the "Top 250" movies list without even trying.