

Argumentative Leads

- Jot down the different types of leads and try at least two of them out for your writing.

Once Upon a Time, You Were Wrong

Start by telling a story...

Once upon a time in a land far away, there was a kingdom where everyone dressed the same. It all started as a great idea. After all, girls and boys were spending hours deciding what to wear each day, and some girls and boys could afford expensive clothes while others could not. Dressing the same helped everyone to feel equal and good about themselves, until one day they had to leave school. What would they wear to that job interview or that date? Some of the young women showed up in blazers and ties; others wore jeans in a statement of their newfound freedom. They all made terrible first impressions, and all the jobs went to students from schools where there were no dress codes. There was one exception, however; these were the students who joined the army. They packed their real clothes away for another three years.

Start with Facts

Facts speak for themselves. A well-chosen fact can say more than a dozen well-chosen opinions. The opinion will be clear with a well-chosen fact.

Examples:

Europeans spend \$11 billion yearly on ice cream, \$2 billion more than what is needed to provide clean water and safe sewers for the world's population

OR

The estimated cost of achieving and maintaining universal access to basic education for all, basic health care for all, reproductive health care for all women, adequate food for all and clean water and safe sewers for all is roughly \$40 billion per year or less than 4% of the combined wealth for the 225 richest people in the world.

The Myth-Blasting Lead

Begin by blasting apart a commonly held belief in the very first few sentences of a piece.

Everyone knows that the right to bear arms is protected by the Constitution, but did you realize that at the time in America when the law was created, there was not such thing as a police department?

OR

You think that if you stopped breathing tomorrow you would die. But don't tell that to Katwon Swami, a Tibetan yogi who hasn't breathed for two years.

Shine the Light of a Question

A question is like this beam of light. It points in a particular direction and illuminates certain parts of an argument when you try to answer it.

Here is a list of questions about the school uniform issue. Pick one to answer. Your point of view will shine through and your answer will form the beginning of your argumentative essay:

- What will school uniforms do to children's sense of individuality?
- Who stands to benefit from school uniforms?
- Do you hate school uniforms?
- Why is the issue of school uniforms an important issue?

Start with a Quote

Quoting famous people, like finding a strong fact, is a way to make your argument without it sounding like it's your own personal opinion. State the quote and then write a sentence about it.

“A penny saved is a penny earned.” –*Benjamin Franklin* If you earn a lot of money and spend it all you are worse off than someone makes less by manages to save it.

OR

“All that glitters is not gold.” –*Shakespeare* We must not always judge beauty by what is immediately seen as pretty.

Choose a couple to try...

- Once Upon a Time, You Were Wrong (tell a story)
- Start with facts
- The Myth-Blasting Lead
- Shine the Light of a Question
- Start with a Quote