Research Argumentative Essay Outline

I. Introduction

- A. Hook: A compelling and attention grabbing statement that introduces the main topic of the essay
- B. Background Information: Relevant information about the topic, such as definitions, historical context, and/or current events
- C. Thesis Statement: A clear argumentative claim based on the evidence provided in the introduction

II. Body Paragraphs

- A. Topic Sentence: Introduces each body paragraph and states the primary idea or point being discussed
- B. Evidence & Analysis: Provides details, facts, examples, statistics, expert opinions to support the claims made in each body paragraph; this also includes analysis of how these pieces of evidence pertain to both sides of an argument
- C. Counterargument: Refutation of the opposing point of view
- D. Conclusion: Summary statement that ties together all discussed evidence and ideas

III. Conclusion

- A. Restatement of Thesis: A summarizing sentence that restates the thesis in different words than previously used
- B. Summation of Arguments & Evidence: A brief overview of the main points covered throughout the essay
- C. Final Thought or Call to Action: Leaves readers with a thought-provoking idea or encourages them to take action on a certain issue, if applicable

IV. Cite Your Sources: List all sources used in the essay

D. Works Cited Page (Optional): For longer paper formats, a works cited page is necessary; it should list each source used within the essay and provide complete bibliographical information for each one.