Argumentative/Persuasive Paper Outline

I. Introduction
   A. Hook/first sentence: grab the reader’s attention with a quote, scenario, question, vivid description, etc. This must be related to your topic.
   B. Background info: include any background information that is necessary to give context to your thesis. Try to keep this section brief.
   C. Thesis: what is the argument/claim you are trying to make? The purpose of an argument paper is to provide a claim or your point of view that is debatable. Developing a thesis statement will give your paper structure.

II. Body Paragraphs (usually 3, but there can be more or less, depending on the assignment):
   A. Topic/opening sentence: what is the main point of your argument you want address in this paragraph? This will set up the rest of your paragraph.
   B. Background info: is there any information on your topic or this main idea the reader needs to know? It is always helpful to have background information to give context to your claim.
   C. Evidence and analysis: what sources have you gathered to support this main point? how do the sources you have support this main point?
   D. Relate back to your thesis: how does this main point relate back to your main argument. Each main point of your body paragraphs should support your argument.
   E. Counter argument: is there any valid dissenting opinion or evidence that goes against your main point of this body paragraph?
   F. Transition: lead your readers to your next main point with a transition sentence.

III. Conclusion

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A. **Restate thesis:** restate your thesis statement in the first sentence of your conclusion. Do not copy your thesis word for word, but reword it.

B. **Synthesize ideas/main points:** take the main points you made in your body paragraphs and restate them again briefly. Why were these important and how did they support your argument/claim.

C. **Ending:** review the essay as a whole while clearly concluding your argument persuasively. This is your last chance to convince the reader of your position, so make it count by using sound logic.

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