

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

JSS 2

WEEK 3

DATE:

WRITING: ARGUMENTATIVE COMPOSITION

1. **DEFINITIONS:** An **argument** is a controversial discussion. When we argue with someone else, we present facts and reasons to support our stand or refute a point of view. **Argumentative composition** is a writing piece meant to persuade someone to think the way you do. A **debate** is a kind of formal argument that may be presented to an audience.
2. **The argumentative approach** outlines evidence or presumed facts (as points) and draws a conclusion from them. It relies on evidence and logic to prove that a viewpoint is valid or invalid or to convince an audience to take action. Usually, the writer of an argument has an option of positions to adopt and these include to support, oppose, or qualify (that is, demonstrate the extent to which he agrees or disagrees with) the argument.
3. **Features of Argumentative Composition are:**
 - a. **Salutation:** in this section, a debater is expected to greet the officials including co-debaters in the opposing side.
 - b. **Introduction:** argumentative topics have pros and cons. You either argue for or against the topic. This section presents the topic and provides background information, culminating in a clear thesis statement that presents the writer's argument.
 - c. **Body paragraphs:** These paragraphs provide evidence and analysis to support the writer's argument. Each paragraph focuses on a specific point and includes supporting evidence and logical reasoning.
 - d. **Counterargument:** A well-structured argumentative essay acknowledges opposing viewpoints and includes a section that addresses and refutes these counterarguments.
 - e. **Conclusion:** The conclusion restates the thesis and summarises the main points, reinforcing the strength of the writer's argument.
 - f. **Clear structure and organization:** The essay should have a clear and logical structure, with each paragraph contributing to the overall argument.
 - g. **Use of credible sources:** Argumentative essays rely on evidence from credible sources to support the writer's claims.
 - h. **Persuasive language:** The use of persuasive language and rhetorical devices helps to convince the reader of the validity of the argument.

HOME WORK

1. What is argument?
2. What is argumentative composition?
3. What is a debate?
4. List 5 features of argumentative composition.