

Outline for Argumentative PowerPoint

Introductory Section

- Your first slide should, of course, be a title slide. This slide should follow MLA guidelines.
- Example title slide:



- Your introductory section sets the stage or the **context** for the position you are arguing for.
- This introduction should end with a thesis statement that provides your position on an issue.
- Your introduction should also contain background information. This provides your reader with any necessary information that he or she needs to understand your position.

Your thesis:

- states what your position on an issue is (often includes your claim)
- usually appears at the end of the introduction
- should be clearly stated and often contains emphatic language (should, ought, must)

Sample Argumentative Thesis

- The production, sale, and possession of assault weapons for private citizens should be banned in the U.S.

Body Section

Your Claim including Reasons or Evidence to Support that Claim

- All evidence you present in this section should support your position. This is the heart of your presentation. Generally, you begin with a general statement that you back up with specific details or examples. You will need to devote at least one slide (probably more) to each reason/claim or type of evidence you offer in support of your position. You will need at least three reasons/claims or pieces of evidence.

Types of evidence include:

- first-hand examples and experiential knowledge on your topic (specific examples help your readers connect to your topic in a way they cannot with abstract ideas)
- Opinions from recognized authorities
- Statistics generated by authorities on your topic

Example of Claims and Evidence

Claim: Keeping assault weapons out of private citizens' hands can lower the increasing occurrences of barbaric public slayings.

- Evidence:
 - Jul 93 Law firm murders
 - Columbine School Shootings
 - University of Virginia incident

Claim: The ban on assault weapons is backed heavily by public opinion, major organizations, and even law enforcement.

- Evidence:
 - 12% favor ban (Much 92 Timetable News)
 - Organizational endorsements
 - Nat'l Sherriff's Assoc./Intn'l Assoc. of Police Chiefs

Claim: The monetary and human costs incurred by crimes committed with assault weapons are too great to ignore.

- Evidence:
 - 10,561 murders in 1990 by handguns
 - Study of 131 injured patients' medical expenses paid by public funds

Counterclaim Section

- Any well-written argument must anticipate and address positions in opposition to the one being argued.
- Pointing out what your opposition is likely to say in response to your argument shows that you have thought critically about your topic. Addressing the opposite side actually makes your argument stronger!
- Generally, this takes the form of a section that can be placed either after the introduction or before the conclusion.

Example of Counterclaims and Refutation

Counterclaim: Strict gun control laws won't affect crime rate.

- Refutation: Low murder rate in Britain, Australia (etc., where strict controls are enforced.)

Counterclaim: Criminals would still own guns.

- Refutation: Any effort to move trend in opposite direction would benefit future generations.

Conclusion Section

- The conclusion should bring the presentation to a logical end. It should explain what the importance of your issue is in a larger context; therefore, your conclusion should also reiterate why your topic is worth caring about.
- Some arguments propose solutions or make predictions on the future of the topic.
- Show your reader what would happen if your argument is or is not believed or acted upon as you believe it should be.

Works Cited Section

- Do not forget to include a works cited section that contains all of your citations for your paper formatted according to MLA guidelines.

The next page shows an example of a Works Cited Slide

Example

MLA Style PowerPoint Presentations

Works Cited

Anthony, James. "The Day Chicago Died." *The New York Times*. 25 Oct. 2013:

C12.

Byrd, Walter. *Mobsters of the 1920s*. Boston: Penguin Books, 2012.

Poland, Dave. "The Making of the Mob." *Roughcut*. 26 Oct. 1998. Turner

Network Television. 28 Oct. 1998 <www.roughcut.com/the-making-of-the-mob>.

Tommasini, Anthony. "Al Capone's Legacy to the Mean Streets." *New York*

Times 27 Oct. 2012: B2.