**Argumentative Paper Format**

**For *Mississippi Trial, 1955***

**I.** **INTRODUCTION**

**PURPOSE:** To set up and state one’s claim

**REQUIRED ELEMENTS**

* Attention getter
* The two possible claims you can have (brief summary of A vs. B)

*Make sure you include the name of the book and the author*

* STATE your claim (*thesis)* at the end of your introductory paragraph

*Fact/Claim/Support*

**II. BACKGROUND PARAGRAPH**

**PURPOSE:** Lays the foundation for proving your argument.

**REQUIRED ELEMENTS**

* Summary of work being discussed / main dispute

*For someone who has never read MT1995, this is where you would summarize the story and Hiram and his fathers*

* + - Include quotes to support the information (quote sandwich)
    - Try to make un-bias and informational.
    - Transition into next paragraph

**III. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE PARAGRAPH**

**PURPOSE:** To prove your argument.

**REQUIRED ELEMENTS**

* Topic Sentence: Restate your side of the argument.

Then give what your evidence will be to support your thesis so that the reader understands why this is your viewpoint.

*Example: In this novel, I believe that \_\_\_\_\_\_ is right because of these reasons explain. You should have at least 2 pieces of evidence.*

* State Evidence #1**:** What supporting evidence can you include to prove/support/explain your topic sentence?

*Include facts and/or quotations from the novel*

* Explain Evidence #1**:** How should we read or interpret the evidence you are providing us? How does this evidence prove the point you are trying to make in this paragraph? Can be opinion based and is often at least 2-5 well constructed sentences.
* State Evidence #2**:**State another reason as to why you feel as though this side is correct.

*Include facts and/or quotations from the novel*

* Explain Evidence #2:Explain why this evidence supports your opinion (can be opinion based). At least 2-5 well constructed sentences.
* Concluding Sentence:End your paragraph with a concluding sentence that reasserts why your claim is right based on the arguments you provided.

**IV. COUNTERARGUMENT PARAGRAPH**

**PURPOSE:** To anticipate your reader’s objections; make yourself sound more objective and reasonable.

**REQUIRED ELEMENTS:**

* Two or more counter arguments and rebuttal

*What possible argument might your reader pose against your argument and/or some aspect of your reasoning?*

* + - Use a fact or quote that would support their claim
    - Chose another fact or quote that would refute them and proves your point to be stronger.
    - Concluding sentence that reasserts your paper’s claim as a whole.

V. **CONCLUSION**

**PURPOSE:** Remind readers of your argument and supporting evidence and importance of your claim

**REQUIRED ELEMENTS**

* Re-introduce both arguments
* Restate your thesis and the points you were trying to make.

*Be more creative and do not start with “In conclusion”*

*This part of the conclusion should be around 3 sentences.*

* The “SO WHAT”

*Your conclusion should tell us why we should care, and why your claim is significant. What information should be taken away from this?*