

Avoid the trap of expressing ...

Alternative 1: The Decision Was Wise

The reasons are:

1. The French would feel less threatened and would be less likely to rebel
2. A reduced threat of rebellion could save the British from the expense of keeping large numbers of soldiers in Quebec
3. It was a practical decision since over 90% of Quebec's population were French
4. It set the future nation of Canada on a course towards tolerance and multiculturalism.

Alternative 2: The Decision Was Unwise

The reasons are:

1. It would create resentment towards the French among the English minority
2. It would weaken the loyalty the English minority felt towards Britain
3. A colony with a French character would not attract new English settlers
4. It set the stage for a movement for Quebec independence in the future nation of Canada.

Your teacher asks you to take a position on the issue:

Was the British decision in 1763 to allow Quebec to remain French wise?

You have a single paragraph to state and explain your position.

Your first step is to think about the two alternatives above. Do the conclusions make sense? Do the conclusions fit the facts?

The example below uses alternative #1. If you choose Alternative #2, you follow the same process as in the example.

To introduce an argumentative paragraph agreeing with Alternative 1 you might write:

The British were wise in 1763 to allow Quebec to remain French in character.

This introduction contains:

- the issue at hand, ...*in 1763 to allow Quebec to remain French in character*
- your position or thesis, *The British were wise....*

Avoid the trap of expressing the introductory statement in the first person. Do not write:

I think the British were wise in 1763 to allow Quebec to remain French in character.

Also, the introduction does not contain any of the facts. The facts supporting the decision come in the sentences after the introductory sentence.

Even though this introductory sentence is a statement of your point of view, you should write it formally in the third person.

You are now ready to write the introduction for your own argumentative paragraph. Be sure to include the two elements for a successful introduction to the argument:

- introduce the issue involved
- state your position on that issue.