

... is discredited in the mind of the reader.

The Seven Stage Essay

The first stage (Stage #2) of this more complex essay, is the presentation of the antithesis. You may present two or three arguments representing this point of view. There is no need to go into a lot of detail with these arguments, so keep it as brief as possible. Cite any interpretations used or quotes from primary sources.

The Seven Stage Argumentative Essay

Introduction

The Antithesis - presents some of the opposing arguments

The Rebuttal - rebuts the antithesis arguments

Thesis Support #1 - the first criteria supporting your thesis

Thesis Support #2 - the second criteria supporting your thesis

Thesis Support #3 - the third criteria supporting your thesis

Conclusion

Why bother presenting the antithesis?

This is a more powerful persuasive essay style than the five stage, because it acknowledges the opposite point of view and then provides evidence that rebuts it. As a result, the writer has not only supported a point of view, but has also discredited the opposite position.

Study your *Issue Organizer* carefully. Find some arguments from the other alternative for which there are good rebuttal arguments on your side. In making these decisions, you are also selecting the arguments you will use in *Body Stage #3*.

Understand that the arguments you choose to refute the antithesis in Stage #3 may not be used again in the other three *Body* sections. You want to avoid boring the reader with redundant arguments.

How should you introduce this stage?

Be careful. You do not want to confuse the reader or leave the impression that you are sitting on the fence and arguing both sides.

Here are a couple of opening sentences that work well.

1. *It can be argued that a modern society must use every means available to protect its members, including capital punishment.*
2. *There are those who believe that today America has no choice but to resort to the death penalty for certain crimes.*

Body Stage #3 is very important because it is here that the antithesis is discredited in the mind of the reader. This must be persuasive, so you may wish to create one paragraph for each argument.

Be sure your primary source quotes and your interpretive material from historians and other experts are properly cited and explained in enough detail to be as powerful as possible.

Here is how the *Body* of the seven stage essay on *Capital Punishment* can be organized.

- Stage #2 – The “Antithesis” arguments
- Stage #3 – The “Rebuttal” arguments
- Stage #4 – The “Social” arguments
- Stage #5 – The “Economic” arguments
- Stage #6 – The “Intellectual” arguments