

Position Essay writing style:

Your **purpose** is to try to convince your readers to take your argument seriously, so you'll want to acknowledge the readers' opposing viewpoints as well as any objections or questions they may have through use of evidence as well as counterargument.

The writer should effectively:

- Choose an arguable, controversial issue that cannot be solved simply.
- The thesis should clearly assert your position [opinion] on the issue, define or qualify your position, and forecast your argument.
- Organize essay in a logical & coherent manner. Writers of position papers often end with the strongest reasons because this organization gives the best reasons the greatest emphasis [emphatic order].
- Need to use viable support from evidence and research to support the reasons for your position.
- Successfully employ ethos, pathos, and logos to support your "reasoned argument" about the subject to your audience who has an opposing viewpoint on your position.
- Integrate outside sources smoothly into your own text
- Avoid grammatical and spelling error
- Use of MLA format in the essay, itself, and the works cited page as well.
- Employ the basic features of position writing:
 - **Presenting the Issue**
 - Identify the issue and explain it to readers in detail by doing any of the following: placing the issue in its historical or cultural context, speculate about the larger social significance of the issue, cite specific instances to make the issue seem less abstract, etc.
 - **Asserting a Clear Position**
 - The assertion of the main point of the essay is its thesis. The thesis forecasts the stages of the argument as well as identifying the main reason[s] that will be developed and supported in the essay.
 - Place the thesis early in the essay, so the readers know where you stand and then keep your reader engaged by restating the thesis throughout the essay.
 - Ex. "Still, however willing I may have been to go along with the name [Washington Redskins] as a kid, as an adult I have concluded that using an ethnic group essentially as a sports mascot is wrong" (Estrada, par. 2).
 - **Arguing Directly for the Position**
 - By explaining your reasons for your argument/position on the issue as well as supporting them with evidence: facts, statistics, examples, anecdotes, quotes from authorities, etc.

- You can argue your opinion based on evidence as well as shared values
- **Counterarguing Objections and Opposing Positions**
 - To counterargue convincingly, you need to successfully:
 - demonstrate that you understand the opposing viewpoints and recognize their objections to your position.
 - concede [admit to the usefulness or wisdom of others' views] OR refute others' objections by finding flaws with their reasoning and support without insulting or frustrating your readers.
- **Establishing Credibility**
 - To establish credibility, you need to:
 - support your position reasonably with authoritative sources & a well-reasoned, well supported argument
 - share at least some of your readers' values, beliefs, attitudes, etc.
 - use a tone that acknowledges differences in opinion, while seeking to establish common ground.

Basic, Loose Outline for a Position Paper:

- I. Intro par.
 - a. State your thesis or assert your position on the issue.
- II. Present the Issue
- III. Reason #1
 - a. Evidence
 - b. Counterargument
- IV. Reason #2
 - a. Evidence
 - b. Counterargument
- V. Reason #3
 - a. Evidence
 - b. Counterargument
- VI. Conclusion par.

