

Building an Argument

AN ESL WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Thesis statement: the main point of your argument.

When you want to *convince* someone that your main thesis is true, you need to *support* your thesis with several good points and examples.

Thesis statement: *Smoking should be banned from public places.*

Supporting Points

Smoking is dirty.

Smoking bothers other people. People cough and hate the smell.

Smoking is dangerous.

Careless smokers cause building fires and forest fires. Smoking kills people.

Smoking is a bad influence on If teenagers see young adults

smoking

young people.

they may think smoking is cool and so they may try to smoke.

Smoking is bad for health.
cancer.

Smoking causes throat and lung

Secondhand smoke is just as harmful as firsthand smoke.

Smoking causes heart disease.

Banning smoking from public spaces is a good policy for several reasons. First of all, smoking is a filthy habit. Smokers leave their cigarette butts on the ground and drop their ashes anywhere. Furthermore, smoking bothers other people. It smells horrible and causes other people to cough. More importantly, smoking is dangerous. Careless smokers who throw away cigarettes sometimes cause building and forest fires. Another reason to ban smoking in public places is the influence smoking has on teenagers. When teenagers see young adults smoking, the teenagers may think it is cool and start a habit that is very difficult to quit. And above all else, smoking is bad for health. It causes lung and throat cancer in people who inhale

secondhand smoke. In conclusion, the ban on smoking is necessary to protect people.

Building an Argument

Your argument needs to flow. You can use these expressions to connect your thoughts.

Use these to introduce your first point

First of all

To begin with

To start with

Use these to connect your points

And

Also

Furthermore

What's more

As well

Use these to show relatively more important points.

More importantly

What's worse

What's more

Use these to show your most important point

Above all else

Above all

Most of all

Use this to show your final point.

Finally

Use these to conclude your idea.

In conclusion

Therefore

Use these to introduce examples.

For instance

For example

