**Student Worksheet for Cause and Effect and Argument**

**Title of assignment: Cause and Effect and Argument**

**Length requirement: 3-5 pages**

**Point of view (first person or third person): Third Person**

**Due date: TBA**

**Rhetorical mode and chosen topic: Argumentation**

**Research requirements:**

**You are not required to include secondary resources. However, if you decide to use secondary information for supporting evidence, you must document all sources in MLA documentation.**

**Essay's main idea and thesis statement:**

**Argumentative essays assert the soundness of a debatable position, belief, or conclusion. Arguments examine ideas to persuade readers to accept new ideas or to take new actions.**

**Your thesis statement is the most important sentence in your paper. It is an assertion and answers the question, “What am I trying to prove?” Your thesis statement is NOT a factual statement or an announcement of purpose. It is a claim that has to be proven throughout the paper.**

**Basic necessary elements in paper:**

**Formatting/Style**

**Your paper should be double-spaced and formatted using MLA heading**

**and MLA documentation as required.**

**Paragraph Organization**

**Your paper must include the following elements in separate paragraphs:**

* **Introduction**
* **Identify the topic/issue**
* **Describe the major controversy or debate related to your issue**
* **State your assertion/claim about the issue**
* **Background Information**
* **Provide information to inform the audience about the issue**
* **Explain key concepts or terms**
* **Reiterate your assertion or claim**
* **Supporting Evidence – Ethos/Ethical Appeal**

**Establish writer’s credibility about the issue by revealing your experience or knowledge. In other words, show why the audience should believe what you are proposing in your assertion.**

* **Supporting Evidence – Logos/Logical Appeal**

**Explain universal facts or widely accepted concepts relating to your issue. For example, explain how your issue relate to current laws, constitutional rights or money.**

* **Supporting Evidence – Pathos/Emotional Appeal**

**Connect to audience based beliefs or values about your claim. For example, appeal to patriotic, human values, or moral ideas.**

* **Counterargument and Refutation**

**Counterargument**

**Summarize major opposing counter-argument about your claim. This shows fairness and establishes credibility.**

**Refutation**

**Respond to opposing counter-arguments by pointing out the weaknesses and emphasizing the strength of your position.**

* **Conclusion**

**Restate your assertion or claim. This is the last opportunity you will have to present your case. Remind the audience of your assertion. Summarize main points. Offer a recommendation or course of action.**

**Questions to ask about the paper:**

* **Does my introduction identify my topic?**
* **Is my thesis debatable?**
* **Did I include background information about my topic?**
* **Did I establish ethos/credibility relating to the topic in a separate paragraph?**
* **Did I establish logos/logical appeal relating to the topic in a separate paragraph?**
* **Did I establish pathos/emotional appeal relating to the topic in a separate paragraph?**
* **Did I acknowledge the major counterarguments and provide rebuttals to emphasize my claim?**
* **Did I remind the audience of my claim/assertion in an effective conclusion?**
* **Did I include the appropriate MLA documentation for all secondary sources?**
* **Did I proofread, revise, and edit for grammar, punctuation, and mechanical errors.**