

Graphic Organizer for an Aristotelian argument

How to use this organizer: This organizer is meant to be used for an argumentative essay. Before completing the blanks on the far right, you should have an argumentative thesis and an audience in mind for your essay. Also, you will want to think about whether or not your essay is suited to an Aristotelian argument. This type of argument works best for a neutral audience or for an essay assignment where the writer has been asked to take one clear position and support it.

Tip: Need to see an example essay using Aristotelian argument before you start? Visit: <https://owl.excelsior.edu/argument-and-critical-thinking/organizing-your-argument/organizing-your-argument-sample-aristotelian-argument/>

Before you start, list your audience choice(s) here:

Components of an Aristotelian argument	How you plan to address Aristotelian components in your essay
<p><i>A. Introduction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grab the audience’s attention (often with a memorable scene) • Explain the issue and any needed background or definitions • State a thesis • Overview the points to be covered in the body 	<p><i>A. Introduction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will grab the audience’s attention by: • I will provide this background information: • My thesis is: • The points that I will cover in my essay’s body are:
<p><i>B. Presentation and support of writer’s position</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This section is the main body of the essay and made up of multiple paragraphs • Each paragraph states and supports a reason with evidence • Each reason is tied to a belief or value held by the audience 	<p><i>B. Presentation and support of my position</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My first reason is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evidence I will use to support this reason: • My second reason is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evidence I will use to support this reason: • My third reason is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evidence I will use to support this reason: <p><i>(Note: Continue adding reasons and evidence until your argument is complete)</i></p>
<p><i>C. Summary of views opposed to the writer’s position</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fair and complete summary of the views differing from the writer’s view is offered here 	<p><i>C. Summary of views opposed to my position</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what ways does my audience disagree with my position?
<p><i>D. Response to views opposed to the writer’s position</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer responds to opposing views one at a time • The writer refutes or concedes to opposing views • The writer shows weaknesses in opposing views 	<p><i>D. How I will respond to views opposed to my position</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For each opposing position listed in box C above, indicate how you will respond.

Attribution: The ideas for this graphic organizer were adapted by Teresa Henning from Excelsior Online Writing Lab (OWL), “Aristotelian Argument.” This site is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

E. Conclusion

- Provide the reader with closure
- Often re-sums the argument
- Ends on a strong note
- Often calls for some type of action in response to the thesis

E. Conclusion

- I will provide a sense of closure by:
- I will summarize these parts of my argument:
- The strong note I will end on is:
- *Optional:* I will call for this action: