

Graphic Organizer for a Rogerian 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 a Rogerian argument. This type of argument works best if the writer is willing to start with the audience’s position and work with the audience’s views to develop a position that both the audience and writer can accept. This style of argument makes use of “empathic” listening (listening to another’s view point to understand their perspective better) and uses a delayed-thesis (a thesis that is not stated at the start of the essay). This type of argument may not work for writing assignments where the writer is expected to state their position at the end of the introductory paragraph.

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

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

Components of a Rogerian argument	How you plan to address Rogerian components in your essay
<p><i>A. Introduction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly address your audience and identify the issue or problem that you and your audience need to resolve or solve • Optional: Show why this issue or problem needs to be addressed now • Establish rapport – a friendly relationship – with the audience • Show that you are familiar with the audience’s position 	<p><i>A. Introduction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will directly address my audience by: • The problem or issue the audience and I need to address is: • Optional: This problem or issue needs to be addressed now because: • I will establish a friendly relationship with my audience by: • I will show that I am familiar with my audience’s position by:
<p><i>B. Summary of the audience’s views</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize your audience’s views in a neutral manner • Where possible, show that you understand or sympathize with their views • Show that you understand the audience’s values that are a part of their views 	<p><i>B. Summary of the audience’s views</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My audience’s views of my problem or issue are: • I will show my understanding of these views by: • The values that my audience has are: • I will show my understanding of these values by:
<p><i>C. Identify Common Ground</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using your discussion so far in the essay, identify common ground that you have with the audience • Discuss your understanding of that common ground by relating that common ground to other situations or examples • Show how your views have been altered/enlarged/improved by considering the audience’s ideas 	<p><i>C. Identify Common Ground</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My audience and I share this common ground/goal: • I can show that I understand the worth of this common ground/goal by: • I will show that my audience’s ideas have lead me to this common ground by:

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<p><i>D. Statement of your position</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respectfully state your position and how it relates to the common ground • Respectfully state and discuss your reasons and how they relate to the common ground • As part of this discussion, encourage your audience to listen and help you respond to the issue or problem 	<p><i>D. Statement of my position</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My thesis is: • I will show how my thesis relates to the common ground by: • The reasons for my position are: • I will show how my reasons relate to my position and common ground by: • I will show respect to my audience and encourage them to help me resolve this issue or problem by:
<p><i>E. Conclusion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show that you are open to more conversation with the audience regarding your position • Suggest additional issues related to your topic that merit further research and conversation with the audience • End on a positive note that your audience and you can continue to work together on this issue 	<p><i>E. Conclusion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will show I am open to more conversation regarding my position by: • Additional issues (related to my topic/position) that my audience and I could work together on in the future are: • The positive note I will end on is: