

## Outline of an Argumentative Essay – Classical Pattern

### I. Introduction

A. **Background Information:** basic information about the issue (i.e. euthanasia) and the position being argued (i.e. euthanasia should/should not be allowed).

B. **Thesis Statement:** states the position to be argued in the essay

### II. Reasons that Support the Thesis Statement

#### A. Reason/Argument 1 (main point #1)

1. Supporting paragraph 1
2. Supporting paragraph 2

#### B. Reason/Argument 2 (main point #2)

1. Supporting paragraph 1
2. Supporting paragraph 2

#### C. Reason/Argument 3 (main point #3)

1. Supporting paragraph 1
2. Supporting paragraph 2, etc.

#### *Notes about reasons/arguments section:*

1. 1. Since this is a longer paper, you will most likely have **more than one paragraph** per main point. This means that your discussion will be more detailed.
2. 2. Think carefully about how you order your reasons/arguments. Possible ways to order your arguments include **most familiar**→**least familiar** or **least important (weakest)**→**most important (strongest)**.

### III. Counter Arguments

A. Mention the arguments from the other side of the issue (i.e. if you're arguing that euthanasia **should** be legal in the US, mention the arguments from the people who think that euthanasia **should not** be legal.)

1. Supporting paragraph 1
2. Supporting paragraph 2

### IV. Rebuttal

A. Briefly refute the other side's arguments

### V. Conclusion

A. Summarize the main points of your essay. What further issues need to be researched or addressed? In other words, where do we go from here?