

Argumentative

vs

Research Writing

KYRA
BAUSKE

2021

ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING

Focus:

Thesis/antithesis-driven writing that focuses on the writer's particular opinion and position on a debatable topic.

Audience:

Argumentative writing focuses on audience perception. The audience is often a particular group that you wish to convince. Keep in mind who you are writing to. Audience influence is more active.

Evidence:

Uses research to support the writer's personal claim. Doesn't usually require deep research of the topic, but does require evidence for the antithesis or opposing side.

Format:

Usually has a minimum of 5 parts: introduction, the main body (3+ paragraphs), and a conclusion.

Does not require use of headers/subheaders

RESEARCH WRITING

Focus:

Research-driven writing that focuses on a particular research question and a thesis based on that answer to that question. The writer should also demonstrate a final conclusion based on data and research.

Audience:

The audience is usually someone within the academic field. The goal is to explain your methods rather than convince the audience of something. Audience influence is more passive.

Evidence:

Presents other researchers' perceptions of the subject as well as your conclusions on the topic. Usually requires the ability to analyze and synthesize many pieces of in-depth research on a topic- often utilizes a Literature Review section to expand on this research work.

Format:

Generally Longer: title page, abstract (summary), introduction, literature review, the main body (which includes methodology, data, discussion, and results), and finally a conclusion, acknowledgments, and references. Often uses headers and subheaders

HOW THE WRITING CENTER CAN HELP:

✓ Assistance with outlining and planning any time!

✓ In depth resources on Argumentative and Research Writing!

The Tutoring &
Writing Center

Olin Library

