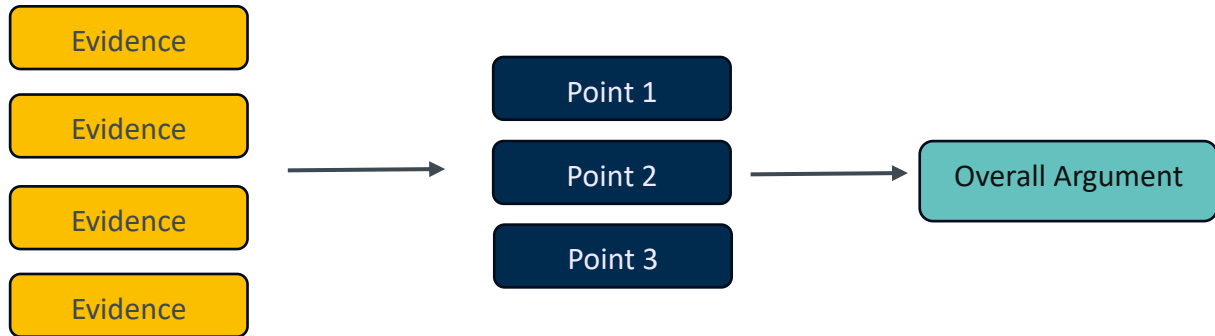


Writing an Argument

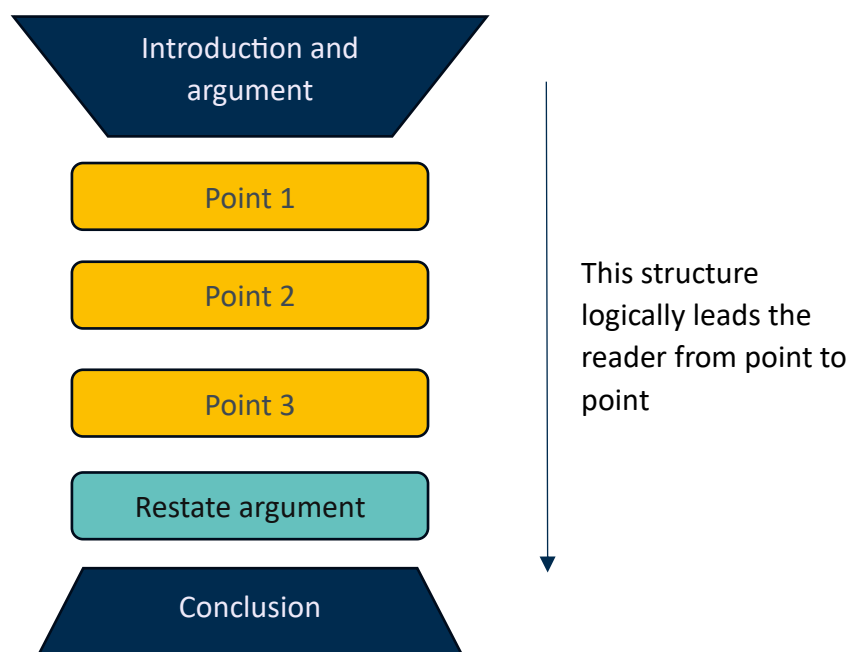
Arguments are the overall message or meaning of a piece of writing. They are based on our research and the evidence that we gather.



You should develop your argument when reading and researching your essay. Your argument should be informed by the evidence and case studies you read. When writing your argument, choose the points that you think are the strongest and most convincing.

Argument Structure

Your argument should follow a linear structure and should logically move from one point to the next. You should summarise your argument clearly at the start of your writing and restate it at the end.



Questions to consider

- Is it clear what you are arguing for and against? If not, you may need to do some more research!
- Can you briefly describe your main points? If so, are these clearly outlined in your introduction and conclusion?
- Does your writing include details that aren't relevant to your argument? If so, you should either expand on these points and link them to your argument or delete them entirely.
- Does your writing flow logically from one point to the next? If not, try adding a sentence to at the end of each paragraph that links to your next point.

Remember your question!

- Your assessment question gives you a clear area to focus on and some of the framework and tools with which to do it. Please remember to refer to these in your argument!
- Remember that your mark is based on how well you have answered the question. It's easy to accidentally stray away from the subject!
- To avoid this, make a note of the key words in the question (critically evaluate, compare, assess, etc) and any theories the question wants you to consider. Make sure you use these frequently in your writing.

Further support

You can discuss any aspect of writing an argument with us in a one-to-one session or look out for future workshops on Academic Writing and Critical Thinking. E-mail AcademicSkills@arden.ac.uk for support.