**Paragraph #1 INTRODUCTION – 3-4 sentences**

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| 1. **Hook** (interesting statement or fact) NO CLAIM YET!   ***Many people do not know. . .*** |
| 1. **Background** (describe the issue) NO CLAIM YET!   ***[Your Topic] is . . .*** |
| 1. **Thesis / Claim** (Answer the prompt and state the claim)   ***There should [not] be . . . or People should [not] . . .*** |

**Paragraph #2 BODY 5-7 sentences**

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| 1. **Topic Sentence** (general sentence about your position)   ***There are several reasons why . . .*** |
| 1. **Evidence #1** (Quote one source)   ***One reason is that . . .*** |
| 1. **Commentary - Explain further (don’t repeat)**   ***Because . . .*** *[must have two sentences with a comma to avoid fragments]* |
| 1. **Evidence #2** (Quote a different source)   ***Another reason is that . . .*** |
| 1. **Commentary - Explain further (don’t repeat)**   ***Since . . .*** *[must have two sentences with a comma to avoid fragments]* |
| 1. **Evidence #3** (If you have more evidence)   ***Finally, . . .*** |
| 1. **Commentary - Explain further (don’t repeat)**   ***Even though. . .*** *[must have two sentences with a comma to avoid fragments]* |
| 1. **Concluding sentence** (Sum up your information)   ***As we can see, . . .*** |

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| **Paragraph 2.5 ADVANCE WRITERS**  **More arguments and less important information – use the back of the paper. This will be shorter and sometimes personal stories that lack strong evidence.** |
| 1. **Topic Sentence (general sentence about your position)**   ***As a personal example, (it’s okay to use I here)*** |
| 1. **Evidence #4 (Quote one source)**   ***This shows . . .*** |
| 1. **Commentary +Concluding sentence**   ***Obviously, . . .*** |

**Paragraph # 3 COUNTER ARGUMENT**

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| 1. **Topic Sentence** (State the other side’s strongest reason)   ***Some say that . . .*** |
| 1. **Reason for the opposing side**(counter with evidence/logic)   ***They say this because . . .*** |
| 1. **Rebuttal (refute other side)**   ***This isn’t a good reason since . . .*** |
| 1. **Concluding sentence (restate your position)**   ***Hence, . . .*** |

**Paragraph #4 CONCLUSION**

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| 1. **Concluding Sentence** (Summarize your claim, but don’t copy your thesis)   ***Overall,*** |
| 1. **Background** (point out your strongest two arguments)   ***The best reason for this is . . .*** |
| 1. **Call to Action** (invite the reader to support you) and/or **Dire Warning** (Warn what might happen)   ***We should [not]*** |