**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]*** |