

How Do I Present My
Argument?

3 Simple Steps

- When presenting an idea, an opinion or an argument, you must be commit to an idea and fully explain it
- Follow the PPE method: Point, Proof, Explain

Point

What is the point of what you are writing?

This can be a journal response, a test answer, or a debate/opinion question. Whatever the case, you must first state your case.

If someone were a lawyer, they could not defend their client unless they had a case. “I believe my client is innocent and that man is a murderer.”

Proof

- If you are going to state your point, it means very little without any evidence to back it up.
- If a lawyer walked in to a courtroom and stated “Your honour, that is the man that murdered my client,” would the judge believe him/her?

- You must provide some sort of proof to back up your argument. Whether that is quotes from a novel, real world examples, or a relatable experience, you must back up your claim.

My client is innocent because I have found this weapon in that man's possession.

Explain

- Now that we have a point and some evidence, we are almost done.
- If the lawyer presented the murder weapon to the judge, what would the judge's **response** be?
- “yea, so what?”

Explain

- Without explaining the evidence, the judge (or the reader) can make sense of the evidence.
- “This murder weapon must belong to that man because I have found his fingerprints on it. The matching fingerprints were found right after the incident and could not have been touched by anyone else. Therefore, I believe this man to be the murderer.”

This is the most important part of the argument/opinion/idea. Without an explanation, the reader cannot make sense of the writers point.

When proving and explaining, it is important to ask yourself,
“Does this relate to my point or have I lost my argument?”

On your own, use the Point, Prove, Explain method to create your argument for the following:

Gr 8: Which conference was the most important for Confederation?

Gr 7: Are some places more dangerous geographically (landforms, climate) than others?

Make sure you have:

Point-
Proof-
Explain-