**MELCon**

# MEL stands for Main Idea, Evidence, Link, and Con stands for CONcluding statement

Mel-Con is an EASY way for you to remember the important steps of writing a strong **PARAGRAPH** – on any topic!!

**M - Main Idea** (your argument or claim)

This is what you intend to prove in your paragraph stated in a very **direct** and concise way.

* Should answer prompt in one sentence.
* Should NOT start with “yes” or “no” even though you are answering a question!
* Should not include “I am…” or “you will.”

**E - Evidence** (example)

This is how you will prove your Main Idea. Use examples, facts, reasons or quotes to prove the point you have stated you will prove. In other words, be specific! Be complete! Stick to your point!

* Should prove only the main idea – nothing else.
* Use QUOTES.
* Should **read smoothly** in your sentence.

**L -Link** (explanation)

This explains what your evidence has proven about your MAIN IDEA in one or two concise sentences.

* Explains how the evidence supports your topic sentence.
* What you think or how you relate the evidence to the topic.
* Should move the reader *beyond* the main idea.
* Your link is unique. It shows your thought processes and why you chose the evidence you chose.

### CON – Conclusion (wrap-up)

The last sentence of the paragraph should be a conclusion, a sentence that wraps everything up and gives your paragraph closure. This should stress (but reword) your first claim or main idea. It summarizes your answer to the prompt.

**Argumentative Essay Outline Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Per. \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**ENG 095**

**First, write your introduction**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Attention Getter/Hook (quote, statistics, interesting detail)** |  |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |

|  |
| --- |
| **Background/Connector** |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Thesis** |  |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |

**Next, write body paragraphs (next pages)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **M = Main Idea** (background information) | | **L = Links** (your explanation of how the example links to or supports your main idea). | | | | |
| **E = Evidence / Example** (fact/quote) | | **Con = Concluding Statement** (recap/summary) | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | **M**  Topic  Sentence |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | Lead in to 1st piece of evidence | | | **E**  Example/  Evidence |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | | Citation |
|  | |  | | | | **L**  Link to topic  (explain) |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | Lead in to 2nd piece of evidence | | | **E**  Example/  Evidence |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | | Citation |
|  | |  | | | | **L**  Link to topic  (explain) |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  |  |  |  | Transition to conclusion |  | **Con**  Concluding  Statement Recap your examples |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **M = Main Idea** (1st point) | | **L = Links** (your explanation of how the example links to or supports your main idea). | | | | |
| **E = Evidence / Example** (fact/quote) | | **Con = Concluding Statement** (recap/summary) | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | **M**  Topic  Sentence |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | Lead in to 1st piece of evidence | | | **E**  Example/  Evidence |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | | Citation |
|  | |  | | | | **L**  Link to topic  (explain) |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | Lead in to 2nd piece of evidence | | | **E**  Example/  Evidence |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | | Citation |
|  | |  | | | | **L**  Link to topic  (explain) |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  |  |  |  | Transition to conclusion |  | **Con**  Concluding  Statement Recap your examples |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |

You many need more than one paragraph per point. If so, use this format to write another one. ☺

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **M = Main Idea** (2nd point) | | **L = Links** (your explanation of how the example links to or supports your main idea). | | | | |
| **E = Evidence / Example** (fact/quote) | | **Con = Concluding Statement** (recap/summary) | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | **M**  Topic  Sentence |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | Lead in to 1st piece of evidence | | | **E**  Example/  Evidence |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | | Citation |
|  | |  | | | | **L**  Link to topic  (explain) |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | Lead in to 2nd piece of evidence | | | **E**  Example /  Evidence |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | | Citation |
|  | |  | | | | **L**  Link to topic  (explain) |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  |  |  |  | Transition to conclusion |  | **Con**  Concluding  Statement Recap your examples |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |

You many need more than one paragraph per point. If so, use this format to write another one. ☺

You might want to make more than one point. Use this format to write another one.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **M = Main Idea** (Counter-argument) | | **L = Links** (your explanation of how the example links to or supports your main idea). | | | | |
| **E = Evidence / Example** (fact/quote) | | **Con = Concluding Statement** (recap/summary) | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | **M**  Topic  Sentence |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | Lead in to 1st piece of evidence | | | **E**  Example/  Evidence |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | | Citation |
|  | |  | | | | **L**  Link to topic  (explain) |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | Lead in to 2nd piece of evidence | | | **E**  Example/  Evidence |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | | Citation |
|  | |  | | | | **L**  Link to topic  (explain) |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  |  |  |  | Transition to conclusion |  | **Con**  Concluding  Statement Recap your examples |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |
|  | |  | | | |

You many need more than one paragraph for your counter argument. If so, use this format to write another one. ☺

**Finally, write your conclusion.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Thesis restatement starting with a summary of your steps/stages.** | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | **Attention Getter-Loop: Connect back to your intro’s attention-getter.** |  |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
| **Clincher:** | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |
|  | | |

Now type the paper. ☺