Argument Essay: The Basics

all right this lesson video will cover the basics of the AP argument essay and. I think this cartoon comic strip is a good place to start as a reminder of the argument essay basin’s basics. it says there are two sides to every argument if. I can take both of them everyone will agree with me or not or not and.

I think this illustrates a good point this illustrates the point that on the AP argument essay you can't really do both sides well. it allows you to choose middle ground and if you're a very very confident writer and you know you can can qualify a statement or work on that type of mode you can go for it but if you're not that confident in it or if you want to go with something a little safer always choose a side the first thing you need to remember about the AP argument essay is that you always need to make a plan I've been teaching AP for a while and. I see the students who end up passing the test and scoring well and.

I see the people who end up not doing as well and the common factor and the ones who are successful is they take time to have a good plan plan your essay be prepared Comrie make sure you check out the argument essay planning video stanford roommate essay reddit if you're not sure how to do that there's a whole video that walks you through how to plan you only really need to take about 5 to 10 minutes to plan for this essay and probably on the lower side it's very easy to plan and just remember the more planning you have the more complete your writing will be now it's a timed test you're under that pressure but there's always time to plan the next thing you need to remember to do on the AP argument essay is always write a thesis statement you need to make sure that you do that every time you do this essay if you don't remember we've got three videos on how to write thesis statements that get into that you can also let me go back here you can also for that thesis statement borrow words and phrases from the prompt to create your direct clear response and you want to avoid using. I think or. I believe but you must have a thesis statement for the AP argument essay next after you establish what your argument is remember back yourself up with evidence remember just like the our reference to the OJ Simpson trial you have to bring the bloody glove into the courtroom and you have to make sure that your evidence is strong and it fits for it to work. if you don't remember why you need evidence you can check out the argument in evidence video but just as a reminder you have to use specific personal experiences for the argument essay and specific observations you don't have sources to pull from the evidence has to come from you and you want to have about three to four pieces of evidence for your argument in order to really have proven your point well and every time you use that evidence you need to explain and connect your evidence right explained and connected almost like remember those connect the dots you did as a kid where you bring everything together and it makes the big picture that's what explaining does in an AP argument essay if you don't quite remember how to do that you can check out the ape video on the argument essay and specifically goes over how do we explain and how to use personal experience and those things in your essay you want to connect the dots for your audience don't assume that your personal experience or observation just makes sense on its own that's the worst thing you can do make sure you take the time to explain the argument essays that score high do a very good job of explaining one common feature that the highest level scores scoring essays on the AP argument essay have in common is that they address the counter-argument okay you want to think of what people who disagree with your thesis might claim you might present what their argument is and then a great thing to do once you've done that is explain why their argument is weak or false that is a great strategy to use on the AP argument essay you also on the AP argument essay want to show off your language skills this is one of the most important things you can do all the little technical things right but if you're not showing off that you ultimately are a college writer then you're not going to get the score you need ultimately this is a test over how you write you want to write in a professional academic serious and elevated tone sometimes students are more comfortable writing more casual but for AP and for college writing you need to learn how to have that elevated tone one thing that might help with this is to visualize your audience while you write you basically need to write like you're writing to college professors okay that’s who your audience is when you write. keep that in mind as you work on that argument essay those are the tips for the basics of the AP argument essay we have some other lessons that will help you get more in depth on that essay if you need to but that should give you a basic understanding of what to expect for the AP argument essay.