

Code List for Short Argumentative Themes¹

1. Introductory Paragraph:

- Highlight in yellow the Topic Sentence.
- Draw a box around the **claim** in the Topic Sentence.
- Write a “B” next to each background statement or an “O” next to the Introductory Option.
- Underline the thesis statement (statement of topic + message), and number the **major reasons**.
- If any of the above items is weak or missing, fix it.
- Correct any capitalization, appearance, punctuation, spelling, word-usage errors, or sentence structure errors. If you don’t know how to correct it, ASK!

2. Detail Paragraphs (complete for each Detail Paragraph):

- Highlight in yellow the Topic/Transition Sentence(s). (This should include your transition.)
- Circle the transition word, phrase, or clause in the Topic/Transition Sentence.
- Draw a box around the **claim** in the Topic/Transition Sentence.
- Underline the **major reason** in the Topic/Transition Sentence.
- Number the Lead-off Detail Sentences. They should each introduce a **type of evidence** that supports the major reason. (You should have at least three in each Detail Paragraph.)
- Write an “F” next to each Follow-up Detail Sentence that includes **evidence (facts, examples)** introduced in the Lead-off Sentence.
- Put an asterisk next to each parenthetical citation for your evidence. You must have at least 4 in your paper from at least 2 different sources.
- Record the TOTAL number of sentences in each paragraph next to it. You should have a minimum of 7 sentences in each Detail Paragraph.
- If any of the above items is weak or missing, fix it.
- Correct any capitalization, appearance, punctuation, spelling, word-usage, or sentence structure errors. If you don’t know how to correct it, ASK!

3. Concluding Paragraph:

- Circle the Concluding Transition (either a word, clause, or phrase).
- Highlight in yellow the Concluding Transition Sentence.
- Draw a box around the **claim** in the Concluding Transition Sentence.
- Write a “C” next to the Concluding Option, and write the type in the margin.
- Underline the **major reasons** when they are mentioned.
- Where the main reasons are mentioned in the Concluding Paragraph, make sure they are in the same order as in the introduction.
- Highlight in yellow the Clincher Sentence.
- Underline the message of the theme.
- If any of the above items is weak or missing, fix it.
- Correct any capitalization, appearance, punctuation, spelling, word-usage, or sentence structure errors. If you don’t know how to correct it, ASK!

4. Entire Essay:

- Highlight a compound sentence in pink. Write the formula at the beginning of the sentence.
- Highlight a complex sentence in green. Write the formula at the beginning of the sentence.
- Highlight a compound-complex sentence in blue. Write the formula at the beginning of the sentence.
- Make sure you have a creative, interesting title.
- Draw a star by 5 different words that demonstrate an appropriate vocabulary for your grade.
- Circle and replace the following forbidden words/phrases: *I/we* (except in personal experience), *you, your, good, bad, a lot, stuff, things, cool, there are*.

¹ This list was adapted from a general list created by Cyndi Gibson, Certified SIM Professional Developer © 2012 by Schumaker. Edge Enterprises, Lawrence, KS