

Argument on an argument

Part one:

In “Name of Article/Essay,” So-and-so discusses the issues of _____.

OR: In “Name of Article/Essay,” So-and-so contends that _____.

After that you might want to use phrases like some of the following to incorporate the writer’s ideas or main points: So-and-so **contends** that _____, **states** that _____, **finds** that _____, **points out** that _____, **argues** that _____, **disagrees** with _____, and **instead suggests** that _____, **cites** statistics that suggest that _____, **quotes** _____.
Another So-and-so to support the idea/finding that _____.

Feel free to use the writer’s words, but make sure you quote her. Always use two quotation marks when you quote a source. After the quotation, you might want to put the page number. Example: So-and-so contends that “blahblahblah” (page 46).

Part two:

- I agree with So-and-so’s idea/contention/view that _____. Tell WHAT you agree with and WHY. Develop your ideas thoroughly. If there are various points you agree with, take each one in turn and discuss what you agree with and why.
- I disagree with So-and-so’s idea/contention/view that _____. Tell WHAT you disagree with and WHY. Develop your ideas thoroughly. If there are various points you disagree with, take each one in turn and discuss what you disagree with and why.
- I agree with So-and-so’s point/ idea/contention about _____, but disagree with _____. Tell what you agree with and why and what you disagree with and why. Develop your ideas thoroughly. If there are various points you

agree and disagree with, take each one in turn and discuss what you agree with and why and what you disagree with and why. Be careful here—make sure that your point is clear; make sure you take a real stand. If you disagree more than you agree, deal with the agreement first, then the disagreement. Leave your reader clear about your position.

- I disagree with So-and-so's point/ idea/contention about _____, but agree with _____. Tell what you disagree with and why and what you agree with and why. Develop your ideas thoroughly. Again, be very careful with this kind of argument. Make sure you take a real stand. Leave your reader clear about your position.

Part three/conclusion.

Restate your thesis or, more precisely, your thesis on the writer's thesis. Then present the SO WHAT of your essay. What do you want your reader to do with your ideas? What do you want the reader to be convinced of or persuaded to do?