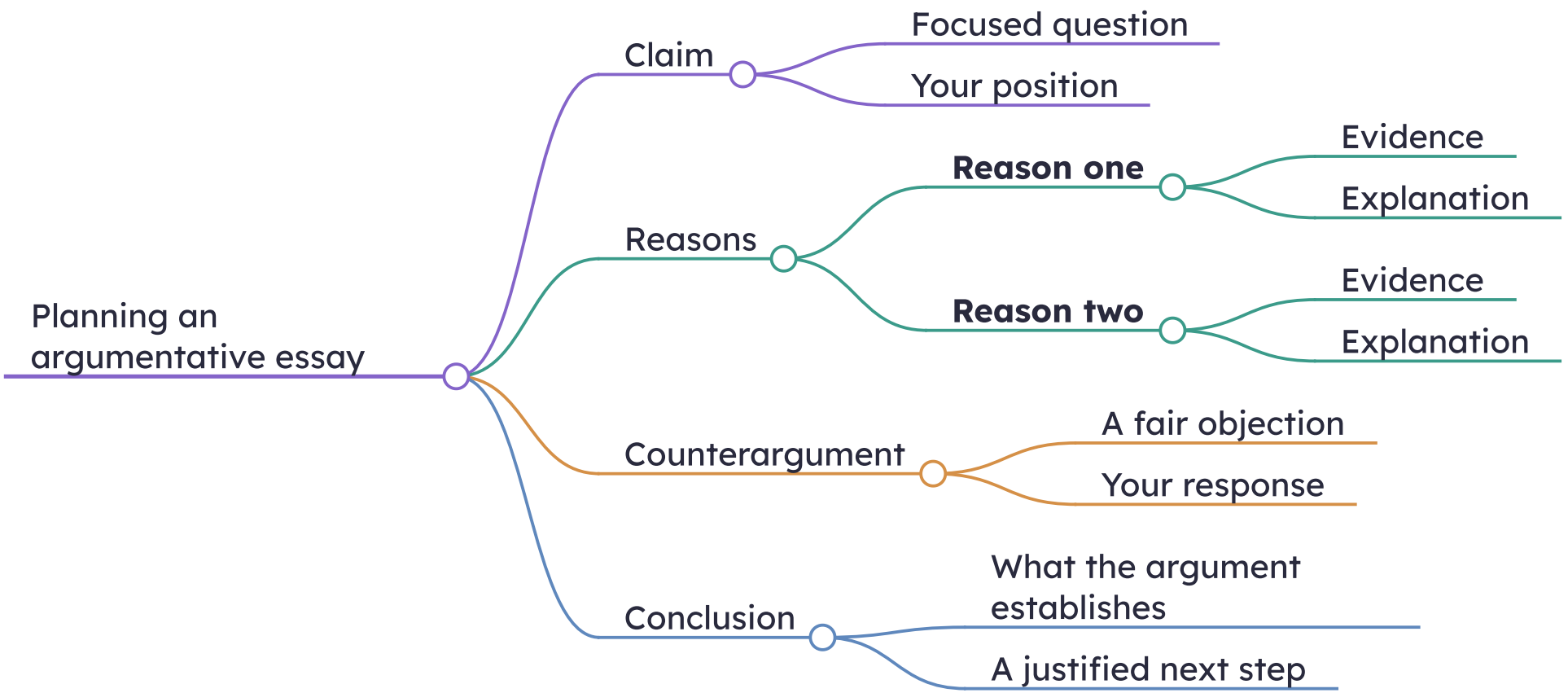
Planning an argumentative essay

Build a clear claim with reasons, evidence, and a response to objections.



Read one branch at a time. Then cover the details and explain them in your own words.

Understand the topic

An argumentative essay presents a position and explains why a reader should accept it. Each reason needs relevant support and an explanation connecting that support to the claim. Address a reasonable objection fairly. The conclusion should follow from the argument rather than introduce a new unsupported claim.

How the map is organized

Give each reason an evidence branch and an explanation branch. Keep the opposing view separate from your response.

> **Watch out for this**
> A personal example can illustrate a point without proving that it applies to everyone.

Try it yourself

Argue for a specific change to school waste collection. Add two reasons, identify suitable evidence, and respond to one practical objection.

Two questions to answer

What should follow a piece of evidence?

Explain how the evidence supports the reason and overall claim.

How should you address an objection?

Engage with the objection itself, not the person raising it.

Sources

owl.purdue.edu
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/essay_writing/argumentative_essays.html

Original practice material compiled by Studera.ai. Explore at studera.ai/en/resources/mind-map-examples.