

Sample Argumentative Outline

Introductory Paragraph

Begin with an interesting quotation related to your opinion about Income inequality (You will need a transition here)

- End the Intro paragraph with your thesis statement:

Even though a certain amount of income inequality is valuable because it gives people incentives to work hard and try out new business ideas, in hopes of reaping big rewards. I will show that income equality harms society because greater inequality stifles upward mobility between generations, making it harder for talented and hard-working people to get the rewards they deserve. Having too much income concentrated at the top compromises the ability of a democracy to give equal political voice to all citizens.

Body Paragraph #1

Topic of the body thesis:

a certain amount of income inequality is valuable because it gives people incentives to work hard and try out new business ideas, in hopes of reaping big rewards

- **Find evidence** - like facts, examples, quotations, or statistics that back it up or support the topic sentence of this paragraph.

- **Explain** how your evidence supports the topic sentence

Another example that shows that a certain amount of income inequality is valuable...

- **Find more evidence** - facts, examples, quotations, or statistics that back it up or support the topic sentence of this paragraph.

- **Explain** how this second piece of evidence supports the topic sentence.

Body Paragraph #2

Vast income inequality harms society because greater inequality stifles upward mobility between generations, making it harder for talented and hard-working people to get the rewards they deserve.

- **Find evidence** - like facts, examples, quotations, or statistics that back it up or support the topic sentence of this paragraph.

- **Explain** how your evidence supports the topic sentence

Another example that shows that greater inequality stifles upward mobility between generations is that the recent winner-take-all economy helped trigger the massive recession, leaving most people with stagnant incomes.

- **Find more evidence** - facts, examples, quotations, or statistics that back it up or support the topic sentence of this paragraph.

- **Explain** how this second piece of evidence supports the topic sentence.

Body Paragraph #3

The most important reason income inequality harms society is having too much income concentrated at the top compromises the ability of a democracy to give equal political voice to all citizens.

- **Find evidence** - like facts, examples, quotations, or statistics that back it up or support the topic sentence of this paragraph.

- **Explain** how your evidence supports the topic sentence

A widening income inequality harms society because Americans with different income levels differ in their policy preferences; actual policy outcomes strongly reflect the preferences of the most affluent but bear virtually no relationship to the preferences of poor or middle-income Americans.

- **Find more evidence** - facts, examples, quotations, or statistics that back it up or support the topic sentence of this paragraph.

- **Explain** how this second piece of evidence supports the topic sentence.

Conclusion

So you can see that although a certain amount of income inequality is valuable because it gives people incentives to work hard and try out new business ideas, in hopes of reaping big rewards, harms society for two main reasons. First, greater inequality stifles upward mobility between generations, making it harder for talented and hard-working people to get the rewards they deserve. But most importantly, having too much income concentrated at the top compromises the ability of a democracy to give equal political voice to all citizens.

- Now you will return to your opening attention-getter from the introduction

- Then end your essay with a powerful *So What?* statement.

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All information used to create this sample outline came directly from:

Clemmitt, Marcia. "Income Inequality." *CQ Researcher* 3 Dec. 2010:

989-1012. Web. 4 Feb. 2012.