

Name

Instructor

Course

Day Month Year

### Outline Example: Addressing Homelessness in San Diego Through Education

#### Main Claim

Although I agree that factors like mental illness, housing availability, and housing costs pose significant challenges to those facing homelessness, I argue that to create lasting change, our primary efforts should focus on creating comprehensive educational programs for those who experience and are vulnerable to homelessness.

#### Subclaim, Counterargument/Rebuttal, and Conclusion Outline

- **SC1:** Local politicians recognize the necessity for solutions to the homelessness problem in San Diego.
  - **Evidence 1:** The city of San Diego provides dormitory-style tents (Wilkins, par. 14).
  - **Evidence 2:** Leaders willing to commit resources to address homelessness (Jennewein, par. 4).
  - This evidence demonstrates the political will to address homelessness in San Diego.
  
- **SC2:** The majority of residents in the San Diego region agree that addressing the local homelessness problem is a priority.
  - **Evidence 1:** Most San Diegans favor of programs for the homeless (“SurveyUSA,” table 15).
  - **Evidence 2:** Area leaders see the issue as urgent (Garrick, par. 9).
  - This evidence demonstrates that residents, including area leaders see addressing homelessness as a priority.
  
- **SC3:** Despite this broad agreement, inaccurate narratives about those who are homeless make it difficult to understand and solve the problem.
  - **Evidence 1:** The majority of homeless people do not abuse substances, but abuse is both a cause and effect of homelessness (“Substance Abuse,” par. 4).
  - **Evidence 2:** The majority of homeless are not mentally ill (Holland, par. 7).
  - This evidence demonstrates common false narratives that the homeless are substance abusers and mentally ill, although these problems exist in this population.

- **SC4:** We must address gaps in structures and systems that allow homelessness to persist.
  - **Evidence 1:** Minoritized and foster youth are especially vulnerable to dropping out of high school, diminishing their earning potential and increasing the likelihood of homelessness (Dukes, par. 3).
  - **Evidence 2:** There's a scarcity of housing in San Diego (Garrick, par. 4-5).
  - **Evidence 3:** Services for those with disabilities are lacking (Holland, par. 12).
  - This evidence demonstrates that the issue is systemic, and we need to address systems to solve the problem, rather than blaming those that experience homelessness.
  
- **SC5:** Targeted education programs can provide those experiencing homelessness gain job-ready credentials.
  - **Evidence 1:** San Diego Continuing Education offers programs ("Adult Classes," par. 5).
  - **Evidence 2:** Working on this one.
  - This evidence demonstrates that education can play a powerful role in addressing homelessness.
  
- **SC6:** Education programs, funded by governmental agencies and philanthropic corporations, can help those who are homeless gain access to stable housing.
  - **Evidence 1:** Businesses can follow the examples of Amazon, Starbucks and Vulcan to support local areas in addressing homelessness (Putnam, par. 6).
  - **Evidence 2:** Tacoma Community College offers a successful housing assistance program ("THA," par. 1).
  - This evidence demonstrates that schools can partner with businesses and innovate to help students find housing.
  
- **SC7:** Education programs can help students who are homeless access healthcare.
  - **Evidence 1:** Schools can become sites for mobile health services, linking education and health care.
  - **Evidence 2:** Schools can respond by offering additional mental health services.
  - This evidence demonstrates that healthcare is needed and can be provided by schools.
  
- **Counterargument:** The *San Diego Union Tribune's* editorial board has recently insisted that ending homelessness would mean "ending mental illness," suggesting not only that homelessness is primarily due to mental illness, but that the problem is impossible to solve (qtd. in Halverstadt, par. 9).
  
- **Rebuttal:** I argue, instead, that mental illness is just one of a complex set of problems that can be addressed, in part, through coordinated and targeted educational programs. Not only can schools provide "wrap around" services for students experiencing or vulnerable to homelessness, they can further the political will of San Diegans through advocacy, networks, and influence. As liaison for the National Center for Homeless Education argues, "[T]he

education system can play a pivotal role in preventing experiences of homelessness, providing critical school-based supports” (Dukes, par. 5).

○ **Conclusion:**

- As a next step, GCCCD students should advocate that our colleges assess and address the needs of students who experience or are vulnerable to homelessness. In part, through student and faculty government, we need to be involved in making this happen.

**INTRODUCTION DRAFT:** San Diego today, more than 8,000 people are homeless which includes people living out of doors, sleeping in cars, or otherwise “lack[ing] a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence” (Wilkins, par. 3; “2017 Homelessness Assessment” 2). In 2017, San Diego’s homeless population ranked fourth in the nation, and although this number has dropped six percent in the last year, this drop is likely due to the recent exclusion of RV residents from the homeless count, rather than to new policies or programs supporting the homeless (“2017 Assessment,” 17; Wilkins, par. 3). Homelessness in San Diego persists despite new survey results showing that most San Diegans across political lines favor developing programs for the homeless, even at the cost of tax increases (“SurveyUSA,” table 15). In part, the persistence of homelessness in San Diego is due to disagreement about the primary causes of homelessness which, if understood, could lead to effective solutions. The *San Diego Union Tribune’s* editorial board insists that homelessness results from mental illness despite evidence to the contrary, while area leaders cite housing costs and neighborhood opposition to facilities for the homeless” as significant causes (ctd. in Halverstadt, par. 9; ctd. in Garrick, par. 5). Although I agree that factors like mental illness, housing availability, and housing costs pose significant challenges to those facing homelessness, I argue that to create lasting change, our primary efforts should focus on creating comprehensive educational programs for those who experience and are vulnerable to homelessness.

↓ Entries are listed in alphabetical order, not numbered. Works Cited ← Title; Starts on its own page.

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