Pronouns
replace nouns (or other pronouns) so you do not have to repeat them.

Tina let me borrow Tina’s coat.
Tina let me borrow her coat.

You met Mark. Mark is my cousin.
You met Mark. He is my cousin.

Antecedent
(the word that a pronoun replaces)

A personal pronoun refers to a specific person, place, or thing.

The lawyer handed out the papers.
They were very complicated.

A pronoun must **AGREE** with its antecedent (just like a subject and verb agree).

Singular antecedent

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{sing} & \text{ular pronoun} \\
0 & \text{or } 1
\end{align*}
\]

Plural antecedent

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{plural pronoun} \\
2 & \text{or more}
\end{align*}
\]

Keep pronouns **consistent**.
Do not switch from “he/she” or “I” to “you” without reason.

When the caller presses 1, you get a recording.

Ginny loves peanut butter but wears braces, and you can’t eat peanut butter with braces.

Indefinite pronouns = not specific

Most indefinite pronouns are either **always singular** or **always plural**.

**HINT:** -one / -body / -thing = singular

Plural indefinite pronouns
both few many several

Singular indefinite pronouns
someone anyone no one everybody
somebody anybody nobody everybody
something anything nothing everything
each either neither
However, the indefinite pronouns
- all
- most
- some

can be singular or plural.

**HINT:** Look at the object of the prepositional phrase that follows.
(most of the workers = plural; most of the salt = singular)

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**Pronoun agreement with indefinite pronouns**

A **singular** pronoun requires a singular verb (-s ending) and a singular pronoun.

- **Everybody fails** Ms. Bielecki’s tests unless he or she studies.

A **plural** pronoun requires a plural verb (no -s ending) and a plural pronoun.

- **Few survive** to tell their tales of addiction to methamphetamines.

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**Collective nouns**

*A collective noun* names a group that acts as a single unit, so use the pronoun “it.”

- audience
- band
- class
- college
- committee
- company
- couple*
- crowd
- faculty
- family
- government
- group
- jury
- office
- police
- society
- team
- union

**HINT:** There’s no “I” in “team.”

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**Grammar exercise #2 (50 points)**

Complete each sentence below with the appropriate pronoun: their, its, his, her, his or her (∗ = extra credit)

1. Our co-ed softball team will let anybody who has _______ own glove play.
2. Each of the players on the co-ed softball team will play _______ best in Saturday’s game.
3. Susie and Billy told their mom that nobody will be wearing _______ club T-shirt to the game.
4. Both of the boys lost _______ marbles.
5. Everyone finished _______ homework on time.
6. The committee announced _______ decision about the award.
7. The union went on strike to get _______ first raise in five years.
8. Some teams play _______ best under pressure.
9. The boys’ basketball team will play _______ best in the next game.
10. All of the players on the boys’ swim team always do _______ best.

∗ Many buildings have security desks in _______ lobbies.

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**Organizing Your Argument**

A presentation brought to you by the Purdue University Writing Lab

Purdue University Writing Lab
What is an argument?

- An argument involves the process of establishing a claim and then proving it with the use of logical reasoning, examples, and research.

Why is organization important in building an argument?

- Guides an audience through your reasoning process
- Offers a clear explanation of each argued point
- Demonstrates the credibility of the writer

Organizing your argument

- Title
- Introduction
  - Thesis statement
- Body Paragraphs
  - Constructing Topic Sentences
  - Building Main Points
  - Countering the Opposition
- Conclusion

Title--why do you need one?

- Introduces the topic of discussion to the audience
- Generates reader interest in the argument

Creating a Title

- Try to grab attention by
  - offering a provocative image
  - picking up on words or examples offered in the body or conclusion of the paper
  - asking a question
- Avoid titles that are too general or lack character

Considering Titles

Imagine you just wrote a paper offering solutions to the problem of road rage. Which do you consider to be the best title?

- Road Rage
- Can't Drive 55
- Road Rage: Curing Our Highway Epidemic
What is an introduction?
- Acquaints the reader with the topic and purpose of the paper
- Generates the audience's interest in the topic
- Offers a plan for the ensuing argument

Methods for Constructing an Introduction
- personal anecdote
- example-real or hypothetical
- question
- quotation
- shocking statistics
- striking image

What is a thesis statement?
- The MOST IMPORTANT SENTENCE in your paper
- Lets the reader know the main idea of the paper
- Answers the question: “What am I trying to prove?”
- Not a factual statement, but a claim that has to be proven throughout the paper

Role of the thesis statement
- The thesis statement:
  - should guide your reader through your argument.
  - is usually located in the introduction of the paper.
  - may also be located within the body of the paper or in the conclusion, depending upon the purpose or argument of the paper.
  (This is not typical of a paper in this class.)

Which thesis statement is the most effective for an argument about the need for V-chips in television sets?
- Parents, often too busy to watch television shows with their families, can monitor their children’s viewing habits with the aid of the V-chip.
- To help parents monitor their children’s viewing habits, the V-chip should be a required feature for television sets sold in the U.S.
- This paper will describe a V-chip and examine the uses of the V-chip in American-made television sets.

Body Paragraphs and Topic Sentences
- Body paragraphs build upon the claims made in the introductory paragraph(s).
- Organize them with the use of topic sentences that illustrate the main idea of each paragraph.
- You may offer a brief (no more than one paragraph) explanation of the history or recent developments in your topic within the early body paragraphs to help the audience to become familiarized with your topic and the complexity of the issue.
Body Paragraphs

- Paragraphs may be ordered in several ways, depending upon the topic and purpose of your argument:
  - General to specific information
  - Most important point to least important point
  - Weakest claim to strongest claim

Offering a Counterargument

- Addressing the claims of the opposition is an important component in building a convincing argument.
- It demonstrates your credibility as a writer -- you have researched multiple sides of the argument and have come to an informed decision.

Offering a Counterargument

- Counterarguments may be located at various locations within your body paragraphs.
- You may choose to:
  - build each of your main points as a contrast to oppositional claims.
  - offer a counterargument after you have articulated your main claims.

Counterarguing effectively

- Consider your audience when you offer your counterargument.
- Conceding to some of your opposition’s concerns can demonstrate respect for their opinions.
- Remain tactful yet firm.
  - Using rude or deprecating language can cause your audience to reject your position without carefully considering your claims.

Incorporating research into the body paragraphs

- Researched material can aid you in proving the claims of your argument and disproving oppositional claims.
- Use your research to support the claims made in your topic sentences; make your research work to prove your argument!
- Do not let the research do all the “talking” for you.

Conclusion -- The Big Finale

- Your conclusion should re-emphasize the main points made in your paper.
- You may choose to reiterate a call to action or speculate on the future of your topic, when appropriate.
- Avoid raising new claims in your conclusion.
Where can you go for additional help with organizing your argument?

- Academic Success Center (YLRC 105)
- Office (YADM 107)
- E-mail (jbielecki@hccfl.edu)
- Phone (813-259-6470)
- Online Writing Lab at Purdue (owl.english.purdue.edu/owl)

Organizing your argument

- Title
- Introduction
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