

## 5-Paragraph Argumentative Essay Outline

**Topic:** Should colleges eliminate mandatory textbook fees?

### Introduction

- **Hook:** The average college student spends hundreds of dollars each year on textbooks, often before classes even begin.
- **Context:** Textbook fees are usually bundled into tuition or course costs, leaving students with little choice.
- **Thesis Statement:** Colleges should eliminate mandatory textbook fees because they increase financial strain, limit student choice, and no longer reflect how learning materials are accessed.

### Body Paragraph 1

- **Main claim:** Mandatory textbook fees place unnecessary financial pressure on students.
- **Evidence:** Studies on college expenses show textbooks as a major hidden cost.
- **Explanation:** These fees affect low-income students most and can discourage course enrollment.
- **Tie-back:** Removing fees would align college costs more closely with actual instruction.

### Body Paragraph 2

- **Main claim:** Required fees remove student choice and flexibility.
- **Evidence:** Many students already use digital, used, or shared materials.
- **Explanation:** Fees force students to pay for materials they may not use.
- **Tie-back:** Choice supports more efficient and personalized learning.

### Body Paragraph 3 (Counterargument + Rebuttal)

- **Counterargument:** Some argue textbook fees ensure all students have equal access.
- **Why people believe it:** Uniform access seems fair and convenient.
- **Rebuttal:** Equal access can be achieved through libraries and open resources without mandatory fees.

### Conclusion

- **Restated thesis:** Mandatory textbook fees no longer serve students' needs.
- **Summary:** Financial strain, lack of choice, and outdated models weaken the policy.
- **Final insight:** Colleges should rethink cost structures to reflect modern learning.