

College Argumentative Essay Outline

Topic: Should universities require attendance in large lecture courses?

Introduction

- **Hook:** In a lecture hall of 300 students, attendance often feels symbolic rather than meaningful.
- **Background:** Many universities still enforce attendance policies even when lectures are recorded.
- **Roadmap:** This essay examines learning effectiveness, student responsibility, and equity.
- **Thesis Statement:** Universities should not require attendance in large lectures because learning styles differ, responsibility matters more than presence, and rigid policies create inequity.

Body Paragraph 1

- **Claim:** Mandatory attendance does not guarantee learning.
- **Evidence:** Research on passive learning environments.
- **Explanation:** Students can attend physically while disengaged mentally.
- **Connection:** Learning outcomes matter more than physical presence.

Body Paragraph 2

- **Claim:** Attendance requirements undermine student responsibility.
- **Evidence:** Adult learning theory emphasizes autonomy.
- **Explanation:** University students should manage their own engagement.
- **Transition:** Responsibility connects directly to fairness concerns.

Body Paragraph 3

- **Claim:** Attendance policies create inequity.
- **Evidence:** Students with jobs, health issues, or caregiving roles are disadvantaged.
- **Explanation:** Uniform rules ignore unequal circumstances.

Body Paragraph 4 (Counterargument + Rebuttal)

Counterargument: Attendance builds discipline and community.

Why it appeals: Structure can help some students stay engaged.

Rebuttal: Community can be built through discussion sections and assessments instead.

Conclusion

- **Restated thesis:** Required attendance in large lectures limits flexibility without improving learning.
- **Synthesis:** Evidence shows autonomy, access, and fairness matter more.
- **Final thought:** Universities should design policies that measure learning, not seat occupancy.