

Chain of logic

A great essay has a logical thread linking each idea to the thesis. Following is an example of an essay outline (intro/conclusion not included here) that "proves" something ridiculous, using a chain of logic:

Thesis: **The United States should elect a child under 10 years old to be our next President...**

ARGUMENT #1: **...because children are not represented in government.**

Evidence: Representatives have to be 25, senators 30, and President 35 years old. (Article I, II of US Constitution)

Evidence: 74 million under 18 years, cannot vote—almost 25% of population! (2010 Census)

ARGUMENT #2: **...because children have good imaginations and can think of creative solutions to problems.**

Evidence: When I was a child, I had all kinds of ideas for solving world problems. As I got older, I stopped having new ideas and started believing the people who said they wouldn't work. (Personal anecdote)

Evidence: Students in Mrs. Riordan's class figured out a solution to the population problem: create a series of space stations for people who pass a test proving that they are "moral creatures." Put the moral creatures on the space stations, wipe out everybody else, and start over again. (Eileen Riordan)

ARGUMENT #3: **...because children are cute, and people pay attention to them.**

Evidence: Samantha Smith wrote a letter to Gorbachev and got invited to the Soviet Union. Her trip was widely publicized, and it helped thaw the Cold war. (People Magazine, 1980s)

Evidence: Each new Dalai Lama is discovered as a young child, and his opinions are listened to as soon as he has them. (The Guardian)