

# Sample Argumentative Research Paper Outline

**Thesis statement:** Are badgers really that big a problem for Pleasantville? Though they do slow us down, and they may be a little too comfy entering our homes, there are benefits to having the creatures around, too. This paper explores those benefits and weighs their value versus the perceived disadvantage of a hedgehog infestation

**Main supporting text:** “Hedgehogs need—and can give—love, if you treat them right” by HR Harvey

1. The negative effects of hedgehogs
  1. Hedgehogs slow us down
    1. At stoplights
      1. Hedgehogs often take forever to cross stoplights, especially in large groups
    2. At home
      1. Hedgehogs can get in the way by blocking doors, standing in halls, etc.
  2. The positive effects of hedgehogs
    2. Hedgehogs relieve stress
    3. Petting
      1. Petting any animal, including a hedgehog, can reduce stress (Harvey)
      2. Special hedgehog petting gloves available
    4. Talking
      1. Because they can't talk back, hedgehogs can be great listeners
  3. The good effects on Danville
    3. We can share
      5. Sharing helps stress
        1. Giving something to a friend can increase positive feelings in both directions
        2. Danville is our neighbor, and we should share with our neighbors, given our hedgehog abundance

4. Appreciation breeds friendship
  6. Many Danvillians like hedgehogs
  7. Some Pleasantville residents change their mind; Danvillians likely will, too (Harvey)
4. Putting things together
  5. Do the good outweigh the bad?
    1. Arguments no
      1. Annoyance is not worth the benefits
      2. Some may not see benefits as benefits at all
    2. Arguments yes
      1. Pros *do* outweigh cons
      2. Cons can be mitigated by, as always, respect (Harvey)
5. Closing
  6. Restatement of thesis
  7. Argument yes
    3. Harvey's research indicates that hedgehog lovers do better and are happier
    4. All depends on one's opinions of hedgehogs, but opinions change—often for the better