

## Sample Persuasive Essay Outline

Hendrickson  
English 9  
Semester 2

- I. The point about **(TOPIC)** USA Patriot Act is that **(STANCE)** it is a negative issue.
- II. While someone may argue that **(CON)** some good changes have occurred in U.S. security.
- III. The reasons **(PROS)** and the evidence to support the point are
  - A. **Pro #1:** Law enforcement agencies act in secret.
    1. Evidence #1: Sections 214-216 of the USA Patriot Act.
      - a. Explanation #1: Librarians are angry because investigation agencies can look at private records, and the librarians can not tell the people whose records have been looked at.
  - B. **Pro #2:** The Act increases the chances of abuse of power.
    1. Evidence #2: "any attempt to intimidate or coerce a civilian population" or change "the policy of the government by intimidation or coercion" (Pember, 51)
      - a. Explanation #2: The government could search any innocent civilian's home, and search anyone's private records.
  - C. **Pro #3:** The Patriot Act reduces meaningful oversight for law enforcement because it weakens the courts.
    1. Evidence #3: The arrest of Jose Padilla in May 2002.
      - a. Explanation #3: Padilla was arrested, given a court date, declared an "enemy combatant", held for months without a trial, and not allowed to see a lawyer.

Therefore, **(RESTATED THESIS AND PROS ):** the USA Patriot Act is unconstitutional for the following reasons:

- A. law enforcement agencies act in secret.
- B. the Act increases the opportunities for abuse of power by the government.
- C. it reduces oversight and weakens the courts.

This issue can be resolved by **(SOLUTION)** not renewing the act in 2005.