

Sample Argumentative Multi-Paragraph Outline

Prompt: It is March 30, 1911. You are a journalist writing about the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. Write an op-ed for the *New York Times* about labor laws in the US in response to the fire.

Claim: Despite business owners' concerns that stronger labor laws might be costly, the United States must pass labor laws to protect workers' lives by preventing unsafe factory conditions, and stop future tragedies like the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire from happening again.	
Reason 1: Protect workers and prevent unsafe factory conditions	Topic Sentence: Emerged from the smoke of this tragedy, the truth about factory conditions can no longer be ignored. Supporting Details: • Factories aren't required to have unlocked doors • Fire escapes aren't mandatory • Factories don't need to have sanitary conditions, such as toilets or washing facilities • Factories weren't required to have fire safety measures like fire drills, fire extinguishers, and automatic sprinklers
Reason 2: Business owners worry about cost, but unsafe conditions cost far more than safety measures	Topic Sentence: While it is understandable that owners fear financial losses, this argument ignores the reality that unsafe workplaces cost far more. Supporting Details: • Business owners fear that paying for sprinklers, fireproof stairwells, and inspections could put them at risk of closing • Human life is far more valuable. Businesses can't afford for their workers to be dying on the job.