

ABSTRACT

ANANDA, C. R. (2024). *EFL Students' Problems and Strategies in Writing an Argumentative Essay*. Thesis. English Education Study Program. Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Jambi University, Academic Year 2023-2024. The first supervisor is Dra. Radiatan Mardiah, M.Hum. The second supervisor is Dr. Nunung Fajaryani, S.Pd., M.Pd.

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Argumentative writing is a genre of writing that is considered difficult by EFL students at the university level. This research aimed to investigate problems faced by EFL students in writing an argumentative essay and to explain their strategies to overcome the problems. The participants of this research were ten fifth-semester students of the 2023-2024 academic year at the English Education Study Program of Jambi University, which were selected through purposive sampling. In this research, a qualitative research design with a case study approach was applied. A semi-structured interview was conducted to collect the main data, and document analysis was carried out to support the data. Furthermore, the data were analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings revealed that problems faced by EFL students in writing an argumentative essay include argument development problems (generating and developing arguments, organizing or structuring arguments, creating an argumentative thesis statement, and a lack of counterclaim and refutation knowledge) and research and source integration problems (finding supporting evidence and a lack of writing citation knowledge). Meanwhile, strategies used by EFL students to overcome the problems include information acquisition strategies (reading a lot of sources, watching videos, and looking at essay examples), technology utilization strategies (using AI applications), and review and improvement strategies (re-checking and revision and asking for feedback). Overall, this research indicates various problems that hinder EFL students from writing argumentative essays and highlights strategies that help them overcome their problems. Thus, it is suggested for future researchers who are interested in this field to find research gaps and use this research as a reference or comparison.