

## ABSTRACT

**Sendi Andiyanti (2021): An Analysis of the Students' Difficulties in Writing Argumentative Essay at English Education Department UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung.** A Paper. English Education Department, Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung.

The aims of this research : 1) To find out the students' difficulties in writing argumentative essay, 2) To reveal the strategies used by the lecturer to design writing argumentative essay, and 3) To find an alternative solution for the improvement of students' writing on argumentative essay.

This study used qualitative with a case study design and involved fifth semester English Education Program of UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung which consists of nine students who were selected with the purposeful sampling technique based on high achievers, medium achiever and low achiever. The instruments were questionnaires and interview: the data were collected by assigning the students to fill out the questionnaires and being interviewed afterward. The data were analyzed by checking the students' answer in the questionnaire, classifying the students' answers, calculating the students' scores of difficulties in writing an argumentative essay. Furthermore, to gain the in-depth data, the researcher conducted the interview through synchronous applications; WhatsApp and Zoom meeting. The interview data were analyzed by categorizing the students' difficulties in writing argumentative essay.

The results showed the students' difficulties in writing an argumentative essay; a) Students struggle to face the difficulties in organization and formation of argument, vocabulary and language used, and also grammatical and spelling errors, b) The lecturer's strategies in teaching an argumentative essay were using collaborative learning and self-assessment, c) The alternative solution offered students in order to improve their argumentative essay by giving more practice in organizing their ideas well without too much focusing on grammatical aspects. Furthermore, the lecturer offers students to use grammar check application to reduce mistakes in their writing argumentative essay.