

Argumentative Essay Assignment

Advanced Composition (W131)

General Description: In this research-based, argumentative essay, you will select a local, state, or national issue for which you hold a deeply felt opinion. The essay must address a particular person or audience, generally the opposition. This essay will require 5 peer-reviewed, scholarly sources as well as 1 additional related, supporting graphic, all of which will be documented utilizing MLA style.

In addition to the Argumentative Essay, a formal metacognitive essay will be written to expound on your individual writing process and personal growth through this paper. In this metacognitive, you must respond to the following in an organized essay format:

1. A detailed summary of the *specific* process *you* followed to fulfill the requirements of this assignment, from its inception to completion. Focus in on the feedback you were given throughout the process during your peer responses or from your conference(s) with Mr. Slater, the revisions that you made, why you made them, and what you achieved as a result.
2. A self-awareness via your detailed struggles and achievements as produced by the process, and how you thrived in and/or overcame those elements. You should also focus on future plans; how will your struggles and achievements with this piece influence your approach to later writing? Essentially, how are you experiencing growth as a writer, and how do you plan to continue to grow as a writer.
3. A self-assessment delineating a score in *each* of the categories on the rubric, along with a clear justification and explanation for achievement, *and* an overall score based on the Rubric Conversion Chart.

Essential Outcomes: This essay will allow you the opportunity to refine your skills in focusing on a specific purpose and audience; responding appropriately to different kinds of rhetorical situations; adopting appropriate voice, tone, and level of formality; finding, evaluating, analyzing, and synthesizing appropriate primary and secondary sources; integrating your own ideas with those of others; utilizing multiple drafts to create and complete successful text; engaging in multiple stages of the writing process; documenting your work appropriately utilizing MLA format; and integrating correct and effective use of conventions within a written text.

Definition of Argumentation: A “reasoned” defense of an opinion; the author will make a “case” by arguing for a position by advancing reasons and evidence of it. **The case MUST include a claim, multiple reasons, and appropriate, logical evidence** to support and demonstrate proof.

Page Requirements: 5-7 polished, typed pages (final draft), in addition to a Works Cited page that identifies each source used in the crafting or creation of this piece.

Format: Times New Roman, 12pt. font or Calibri, 11pt. font, 1 inch margins, MLA parenthetical citations and Works Cited page

Source Requirements:

- At least **5 peer-reviewed, scholarly sources** are required as indicated below:

- At least **2 articles from a Professional Journal** (from an approved electronic database such as INSPIRE or JSTOR)
- All internet sources other than *INSPIRE* and *JSTOR* (if you choose to use them) must be reliable, high quality and research-based.
- At least **one of the articles above must be a primary source document** (as evidenced in the 5 peer-reviewed, scholarly sources above).
- At least 1 graphic (which can be taken from any of the above sources or from another scholarly, reliable source)

Submission Format: ALL DRAFTS (4 total) will be submitted on the date indicated on the syllabus. Additionally, ALL STEPS in the writing process, including all drafts, peer editing worksheets/comments, conference forms, etc. will be submitted with the Final Draft on the date indicated on the syllabus.

Final Draft (with tracked changes) and Metacognitive will be submitted electronically AND in print form, along with all the steps in the writing process, organized in a reverse chronological order—the final draft on top, followed by the third draft, etc.

All materials will be secured with a large clamp in the following order:

1. Academic Honesty Statement
2. Metacognitive Essay
3. Argumentative Essay Final Draft (#4) (without tracked changes = posted to Canvas; with tracked = PRINT).
4. Draft #3 with *completed* conference form attached to front (if applicable)
5. Draft #2 with Peer Revision
6. Draft #1 with Peer Revision
7. Copies of ALL sources – with MLA citation, highlighting/annotating, and internet approval (if applicable) in order of Works Cited page, preceded by source documentation for the graphics. (For book sources, you will need the copy of the title page, publishing page, and all pages that you referenced in your paper.)

Percent of 18-Week Grade: 20%

Assessment: See associated rubric.