

Argument Assignment

Your second major assignment for this class is writing an Argument. This assignment is by far the largest part of your grade at 40 points or 40% of your final grade.

- Your argument must be a minimum of **5 full pages long**. The writing should be in 12-point font (Times New Roman or equivalent) and should be double spaced.
- Your issue must be **reasonably argumentative**, meaning that a reasonable person could both agree and disagree with your topic.
- Your issue must be **reasonably small**, meaning that you can explain the issue and your arguments well in 5 pages.
- Your paper must include a minimum of **4 outside sources**, such as books, magazines, journals, or scholarly websites.
- A photocopy of all sources used in your paper must be included with your second and final drafts.
- Your paper must include at least three good reasons why you believe that your opinion is true. These reasons must be supported with logic and facts from your sources.

For this essay, you have 5 major due dates:

- Your finalized topic is due no later than **Tuesday, October 14** for pre-writing. After you give me a finalized topic, you cannot change it unless you ask me and already have a new topic in mind.
- Your bibliography is due on **Thursday, October 30**.
- Your first draft is due on **Thursday, November 13** for peer review. Be sure to bring 4 copies.
- Your second draft is due on **Tuesday, November 25** for instructor commentary.
- Your final draft is due on **Thursday, December 11** for grading.

Late and incomplete assignments:

- All drafts must be complete, including the first draft, and must include a full bibliography. If a draft is incomplete, it will lose up to 5 points.
- All assignments (including the topic and bibliography) must be turned in on time. Late assignments will lose one point per day (up to 5 points). Late assignments begin losing points at the **beginning** of class on the due date. If you do not have the assignment at that time, it's late. Assignments more than 5 days late will not be accepted.
- Second and final drafts must include all previous drafts. The second draft must include the first draft, and the final draft must include the first and second draft. All drafts must include a bibliography. If you do not turn in previous drafts or bibliography, you will lose up to 5 points.
- Second and final drafts must be changed and improved for the next draft. If a draft is turned in unchanged, you will lose up to 5 points.

You will be graded on the following:

- Did you follow the assignment, including format and page length
- Is your argument reasonably argumentative and reasonably small?
- Do you argue your points well? Are your arguments reasonable and convincing?
- Are your arguments supported by facts, statistics, opinions, and so on from your sources?
- Are your sources cited correctly both in the bibliography and in-text citations?
- Are your quotes and paraphrases correct and appropriate?
- Is your paper clear and easy to understand?
- Does your paper have correct grammar, spelling, word choice, conjunctions, and punctuation?
- Does your paper improve between drafts? Are the second and final drafts better than the first draft?

Argument Structure

There are several ways to organize arguments, but the most common and the most simple way is as follows:

- I. Introduction
 - a. Eyecatcher
 - b. Background
 - c. Thesis
- II. First Point
 - a. Topic Sentences
 - b. Explanatory Sentences
 - c. Transition
- III. Second Point
 - a. Topic Sentences
 - b. Explanatory Sentences
 - c. Transition
- IV. Third Point
 - a. Topic Sentences
 - b. Explanatory Sentences
 - c. Transition
- V. Counterpoints (Optional: Might be part of other sections)
 - a. Topic Sentences
 - b. Explanatory Sentences
- VI. Conclusion
 - a. Summary
 - b. Draw Out