

Essay Assignment: Argument Essay—First Draft

For this assignment, you will work through the drafting stage of your writing process in an argument essay.

Assignment Instructions

STEP 1: Review the grading rubric below, and familiarize yourself with the expectations of your *first* draft.

STEP 2: Review the Argument Essay Outline you submitted, along with the feedback you received from that assignment. Make adjustments to the outline per the feedback. This may include strengthening lines of reasoning, expanding or improving research sources for supporting evidence, creating a more sympathetic introduction to your position, etc.

STEP 3: Develop a complete draft of your essay using your improved Argument Essay Outline. It should meet the following requirements:

- A two-part thesis including a statement of position and a forecast of your lines of reasoning
- A minimum of three credible outside sources formatted on a source page (MLA, Works Cited)
- 3–4 typed, double-spaced pages (about 600–750 words), 12 pt font size, Times New Roman.
- MLA formatting (see the MLA Format page as needed)
- Submitted as either a .doc, .docx, or .rtf file.

Papers submitted that do not meet these formatting requirements will be returned to you ungraded.

STEP 4: Submit your first draft of your Argument Essay as a single file upload.

Rubric

Criteria	Rating: Meets Expectation	Approaching Expectation	Point Total: 50
Ideas	The paper demonstrates outstanding or above-average idea development, with a thesis that articulates a clear stance about a controversial topic.	The writer sufficiently defines the topic, even though the development is still basic or general.	___/15 pts
Content	The paper demonstrates outstanding or above-average evidence of supporting the main point with at least three lines of reasoning. Paragraphs are well-developed and clear, demonstrating research about the topic. Research may include examples, testimony, and facts/data that support your position.	The writer demonstrates sufficient support for the main point, but could use more supporting details.	___/15 pts
Organization	The organization is clear and showcases the central theme. The presentation of information is compelling. Opposing viewpoints are addressed logically and refuted.	The organizational structure is strong enough to move the reader through the text without too much confusion.	___/15 pts
Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions	The writer demonstrates an outstanding word choice selection, flow, and cadence, with well-built sentences and a strong grasp of standard writing conventions.	The writer demonstrates sufficient selection of words. The text tends to be more mechanical and contains some errors in standard writing conventions.	___/5 pts

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