Essay 3: Argument

For your third essay, you will write an argumentative essay of at least 1,200 words answering one of the following three questions:

1. After reading Richard Rodriguez’s “Aria: Memoir of a Bilingual Childhood,” do you agree with his position on bilingual education for young children?

2. After reading Michael Sokolove’s “Football is a Sucker’s Game,” do you agree with his position on the affect that college athletics can have on college academics? (This reading is available at my instructor Web site: http://is.gd/kepka121)

3. After reading Deborah Tannen’s “But What Do You Mean?” do you agree with her classifications of male and female patterns of speech? Do you think they have the effect that she states?

In your essay, you’ll not only have to discuss the author’s specific point of view but also your own, supporting whichever side you choose with cited, outside research. All three of these topics will require you to do outside research in order to support your points. Any research – including that drawn from web sites – must be cited in your text and in an MLA formatted works cited page, which should appear at the end of your essay. This page does not count into your total word count.

Argumentative essays will be graded on the following:

Development:

Are points well supported with credible research? Does every paragraph make a single, focused point with appropriate examples? Does the author engage with the strongest possible counterargument?

Organization and formatting:

Is the essay written in a logical order? Is there appropriate space given to each point? Do paragraphs have clear topic sentences? Are transitions used throughout? Does the paper adhere to formatting guidelines, including correct use of MLA citation?

Mechanics:

Are sentences varied and correctly punctuated? Are there errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar that should have been caught through proofreading? Is the language and vocabulary of the piece appropriate for an academic audience?

Fulfillment of assignment:

Does the essay address one of the questions above? Does it draw upon class discussions and information in the book to make the best possible argument? Were pre-writing and in-class activities (including peer editing) taken advantage of to the fullest? Does the final draft show significant proof of revision?