

WR 122 – Argumentative Essay 1

Purpose: You will use concepts we have explored as a class to construct an argument for a specific audience.

Prompt: This 4 – 6 page essay (1,200 – 1,800 words) will argue that, after close research, you have indeed come to the best position on your chosen topic from your Rhetorical Analysis. Through the course of the paper, you will clearly explain why you think what you think, and you will use your research to convince your primary audience.

You will use your paper to make an argument that is logical, reasonable, considers the audience, considers the opposition, and is based on good, credible research. The argument will be a result of careful, critical thinking about your topic. The thoughts will be yours, the result of the research you have done. The paper will not simply report on a subject. A simple report will not receive a passing grade.

There are two general approaches you can take:

1. An Aristotelian approach that refutes opposing positions (combative)
2. A Rogerian approach that seeks compromise with a specific audience (conciliatory)

No one approach is better than the other for the purposes of this paper. The form of the paper may be analytic, argumentative, or a combination of critical/creative forms. You should determine your approach based on your audience.

Audience: An argument is not an argument unless an audience is involved in some way, shape, or form. Your argumentative essay must have a specific audience. You must be able to name your audience, and you must be able to describe your audience's values

As an example, you might say "my audience is the city council, a group of officials who care about social and economic policies that directly affect the people and businesses of the municipal area..."). From here, you might be able to point to names and faces involved:

[City Council of Albany's Website](#)

You might consider looking into any material published by your audience. In the given example, information from voting manuals could be very helpful for determining what your audience does – and does not! – stand for.

Different audiences will respond differently to different types of sources.

Sources: You must include at least 5 good, credible sources referenced directly in the paper and listed in the end-text documentation. You must use the sources appropriately and cite them according to MLA or APA style. No more than 2 can be newspaper quality or below; the others might be interviews (from credible organizations, not Q&A one-liners), surveys (by credible organizations), or some other type of effective source. Scholarly articles are not always

appropriate for every audience, but they rarely interfere with an argument's efficacy. If you are not sure whether a source is appropriate to use you are welcome to ask.

Formatting and Structure: Your paper will be double-spaced with 1" margins. It will have a header with your name my name, the class, the date, and the word count, not including headers, titles, and end-text documentation. You will title your paper something other than "Argumentative Essay 1." The chosen title should contribute to your argument. The text of the argument will be at least 1,200 words without exception. Do not go under the minimum word count.

You will paragraph your paper appropriately. Your paragraphs will support your overall thesis. Your sentences will be virtually error free (grammatically and mechanically). It will be clear where your ideas differ from the ideas of your sources. You absolutely must document your sources to receive a passing grade.

Criteria:

1200 – 1800 words

12 Pt Times New Roman

Double-spaced

1" Margins

MLA or APA Format – At least 5 sources.