

Assignment Sheet for Argumentative Essay

Academic argumentative essays takes a position on a topic and then argues for it in ways that accounts for opposing positions. These arguments must also be backed up by outside research and evidence. In formulating argumentative essays for academic contexts, a writer must communicate that other sides are considered carefully.

Purpose: The writer of academic argumentative essays takes a position on a point that accounts for multiple aspects of the topic. The goal is to help the reader understand your thinking so that they can help you grow as an academic. To this end, your essay should have **a clear thesis**, implicit or explicit, **depending on the prompt**. For this assignment you will must **follows the format and prompt** assigned by your instructor.

Format: This will be a **7-paragraph essay**. It must **contains a thesis statement at the end of the first paragraph** and follow the MLA guidelines. This means that your essay should make **use of topic sentences and connectors/conjunctions/transitions** for your body paragraphs. Such formatting is the foundation of effective communication in writing in the classroom.

You must also include a paragraph **of an opposition position and a paragraph refuting that opposing position**. These points must all be backed up by evidence and so it is crucial that you do external research and use appropriate citations. This essay must include a **Work Cited page and use MLA citation for attributing evidence**.

Audience: This essay will target a **scholarly audience**. Therefore, your language and style should meet the intellectual needs of individuals who read on a collegiate level and pique their interests.

Stance/role: What attitude and information (about yourself as a student) will you convey through the essay? Think about what you want to communicate to the reader (i.e., the professor) and convey your stance throughout your essay. **Careful wording and sentences will communicate your stance as a serious student**, someone who pays attention to details. Sloppy writing will communicate that you are a sloppy student or person.

Use of evidence and reasoned arguments will also communicate your effort on the assignment similarly. Therefore you need to develop your writing using evidence from the text and lay out your analysis in a reasoned manner.

Instructions: 1. Brainstorm your ideas and do research on the topic
1. Compose an annotated bibliography of four sources and draft an essay on one of the prompts below
2. Submit the annotated bibliography and research materials to develop essay further
4. Peer review the essay with your classmates (or take it to the SVWC for tutoring help or use the Smarthinking resource on Blackboard)
5. Revise the draft to address their feedback.

Directions:

1. Brainstorm and outline: Before choosing your topic you should consider what you want to write about. Once you have chosen your topic, you should decide where you stand on the issue.

2. Writing: Present your points in a way that convinces the reader that your analysis is valid. Remember, this essay should have a specific, detailed, thesis statement. It should use topic sentences to anchor each paragraph and evidenced-based exposition to layout the point, and communicate your thinking to your reader/instructor.

3. Reviewing and editing: You will draft an essay for peer review. To proceed with this process, you must initially do a review in class using the peer review sheets provided and through the Smith Vidal Literacy and Language Center.

4. Finishing up and reflecting on the process: You will, finally, edit your essay based on the feedback and reflect on your writing process (refer to the “**An Essay In Three Drafts**”).

DUE DATES: