

ENG 101

CHUNHO '20

English 101

Essay #3

The Persuasive Essay

The third essay will be a persuasive essay.

This means that you will take a position, and then persuade your reader to do or to believe something specific.

You will be explicit about what you're arguing for. You will not be vague. You will not be abstract. You are going to be clear, direct, and precise.

You will have a definite, identifiable thesis.

You will cite three sources in a works cited page according to MLA format.

You will include page numbers, and have at least 4 pages.

You will have a strong introduction and conclusion.

You will use logic, reason, and argument to show the superiority of your position.

You will be specific and concrete as you summarize, quote, use examples, describe, and argue.

You will then anticipate an opponent's counter argument, summarize it briefly, and then crush it.

Your enemies will fear you, and at night they will sing songs of the terror you inflict upon them.

When you map out this essay, remember not to start at the end. You will focus on your interests and allow your excitement and/or boredom to show you what direction to go in. You will then adopt a stance. You will be knowledgeable about your topic. You will craft a thesis. You will use topic sentences to frame some of your paragraphs, when appropriate. And you will have a strong structure, with the beginning middle and end in their proper place.

You can choose where to put your thesis, as the first line of your introductory paragraph, or as the last. The important thing is that you have a thesis, and that it is clear and specific. Many writers like to add their concessions first in the body, after they've argued a thesis in the introduction. I think it's best to keep the momentum going from your introduction into the body, and only after the ground has shaken from your first barrage should you mention your opponent's position. The choice is yours.

Suggested

-Have as much of your draft written as possible, so you can use the peer review to get more help. Most essays are better when they've been critiqued as final drafts.

-When you have it, make your point clear with a strong thesis. Don't build the paper around your thesis, but use a thesis when your paper is ready for it.

-Narrow your topic:

Most student drafts are far too general, e.g. "Racism is bad".

You want it to be specific, e.g. "Mandatory Minimums disproportionately target communities of color and should be abolished."

Prompts

Pick a fight: Find something that is wrong, and persuade me that it's wrong.

Change: What is a specific policy, law or accepted idea that should be changed?

National Topics: Gun control, immigration, sexual harassment and assault, etc.

Washington Topics: Legalizing Marijuana, paying adjunct instructors a living wage.

Possible Template 1	Possible Template 2
-Thesis -Supporting points -Reasons -Evidence -Examples -Counter argument -Crush Counter argument -Conclusion	-Narrative/ Story -Represent issue -Show both sides -Thesis -Supporting points -Counter argument -Reasons -Evidence -Examples -Conclusion

Minimum requirements (for grade)

- In Microsoft Word
- At least 4 pages
- Proper format & Heading
- More specific thesis, clearly identifiable and explicit
- At least 3 sources
- Sources cited correctly
- Arguments with clear claim, reasons, and evidence
- Spelling and Grammar mistakes cleaned up
- Describe counter argument well
- Attack counter argument
- Strong conclusion

Suggested

- Appropriate for your argument, use the types of writing we've covered in class
(Narrative, Descriptive, Persuasive)
- Be declarative and use strong, active voice
- Narrow your subject even more
- Don't put new information in your conclusion if you can help it. Use conclusion to summarize all the good points you've made and finish off your opponents with a last drop of the guillotine.