

Position Paper Assignment

Draft due: Wednesday, 2/20

Final due: Monday, 2/25 (in dropbox)

Minimum of 500 words, 12 pt Times New Roman Font

<https://www.nashvillescene.com/news/features/article/20844566/how-should-schools-deal-with-indian-imagery>

This assignment is broken into 4 segments: the Introduction, the Counter-Argument/Concession, Your Position, the Conclusion

I. Introduction

- A. Introduce the topic
- B. Provide background on the topic to explain why it is important
- C. Assert the thesis (your view of the issue).

Your introduction has a dual purpose: to indicate both the topic and your approach to it (your thesis statement), and to arouse your reader's interest in what you have to say. One effective way of introducing a topic is to place it in context – to supply a kind of backdrop that will put it in perspective. You should discuss the area into which your topic fits, and then gradually lead into your specific field of discussion (re: your thesis statement).

II. Counter Argument

While you may believe your perspective is correct, there is obviously another side of the issue, and there are people, perhaps even professional people, who agree with this other side. What are the arguments they can construct to prove THEY are correct? Note: you don't have to agree with them. Present the information as precisely what it is – the other side. You don't have to say you agree with it – say THEY believe this to be a strong argument, based on whatever factors are most important to them. Once you have explained the counterargument, consider how you will concede that the opposing position has merit. When you are summarizing opposing arguments, be charitable. Present each argument fairly and objectively, rather than trying to make it look foolish. You want to show that you have seriously considered the many sides of the issue, and that you are not simply attacking or mocking your opponents.

III. Your Argument

In this portion of the paper, you will present the side of the issue you believe to be the stronger side. You will prove your point by presenting evidence which supports your position. You will need multiple pieces of evidence to prove that this perspective is the correct perspective. Remember that all strong arguments include logos, pathos and ethos. Use support from the class readings to support your argument. If you feel the need to do further research, feel free. Just remember that it will need to be documented properly.

IV. Conclusion/Why Your Argument is Stronger than the Counter-Argument

In this paragraph, work to explain why your position is stronger than the counter-claim. Conclude by answering the “so what” question for readers, perhaps by providing a sense of the larger implications for your position, by making a recommendation for action, or by identifying how your position appeals to shared beliefs.