

Sat, 12 / May / 2012

## The Persuasive/Argumentative Essay

### Topic:

For this unit you will argue about a current issue in society. You are free to choose the issue that you would like to argue about, however, I would advise you to choose something that has been heavily researched. Furthermore, I would recommend that you write about something that has to do with the struggle of power, politics, education, or literacy, as we have already laid a foundation for these earlier in the quarter with the Essay Exam.

### In this unit you will:

- Investigate a topic.
  - Collect, generate, and evaluate evidence of that topic.
  - Establish a position on the topic in a concise manner.
  - Follow the basic structure and outline of an argumentative essay.
  - Find texts related to this question or topic that can be analyzed. You could analyze articles, films, news programs, websites—anything that you think might help you learn more about your topic.
- A minimum of 5 sources are required, 2 of which must be academic peer reviewed articles.

2 academic articles

### Successful essays will:

1. Offer a unique thesis based upon the analysis that you've conducted.
2. Use research and credible scholarly evidence to support a unique argument.
3. Include a clear central claim (or thesis) that states your position on the topic at hand.
4. Support the central claim with reasons and evidence.
5. Consider and respond to the plausible reactions to your argument in your essay.
6. Include proper documentation of all outside sources.
7. Minimum of 8 pages in MLA FORMAT. ALL PAPERS MUST BE IN MLA FORMAT. PLEASE USE YOUR BOOK AND PURDUE OWL EXAMPLES OF MLA FORMAT TO ENSURE YOU ARE FOLLOWING MLA GUIDELINES.

### Please consider these additional questions:

- Have you established a clear context for your argument?
- Is your argument significant? That is, have you established that your topic, and your position on it, contributes to an ongoing academic conversation to the field?
- Are your premises and claims supported by credible reasons and academic evidence?
- Did you establish a clear thesis and provide a roadmap for your readers so they can easily follow your argument?

You will write a number of persuasive essays at Eastern. After completing this unit, you should be able to strategically approach and successfully complete a persuasive essay.