

### Essay #3: Argumentative Writing

For your third take-home essay in this class, you will write an essay in which choose one of the prompts below and make an argument. As you write the essay, please make sure that you are attentive to each step of the writing process (brainstorming, planning, researching, drafting, revising, and editing). This is the last take-home option for the portfolio, so make sure to put your best effort forward.

Writing an organized and logical argument is key to college writing; hence, it is the last paper you will write in this class before you move on to WR 201. It will draw upon what we have worked on throughout this semester: analysis, cause/effect, description, and narration.

Alright, take a breath now. Though an "argumentative" essay may sound daunting, argumentation is something that we do in conversation often. Think about your last debate or argument. What were some of the key elements? Usually, each of you had a point with reasons as to why you were right; you had some proof to back it up; if your opponent argued a point better than you, you conceded; at the end, you kept things amiable. This is the general format for a written persuasive essay as well. See, you can do it!

Please see the reverse side of this handout for your topic choices. I have set them up so you can organize and develop them carefully. Additionally, you will find that you are already knowledgeable on the topics since they all deal with the texts we have been and will read and watch: *True Notebooks*, *Juvies*, "Little Adult Criminals" (593), "Should Juvenile Offenders Be Tried as Adults?" (596), "Adult Crime, Adult Time" (601), and "Young Voices from the Cell" (606).

3 Max

#### Directions and Requirements

As discussed in class, all well-written argumentative essays contain the following (which you will be graded on). It is your choice as to how you organize these sections, but they must be in the essay.

- A clear position statement on the topic (thesis)
  - Background information on the topic (usually one paragraph after the introduction)
  - Supporting points (several paragraphs--this is the crux of your essay)
  - ← ● Opposing arguments, rebuttals, and concessions (woven throughout the essay)
  - Sound logic
- ← Counter-argument  
→ Put your self in there position  
→ Refute → why  
    counter is invalid.

Your essay will also be graded on the following criteria:

- The introduction must have a hook, summary of the topic (bridge), and thesis.
- A background information paragraph after the introduction (if necessary).
- The body paragraphs must have a topic sentence, evidence/examples, and analysis/explanation of how the evidence used supports the thesis. Think of MEAL.
- The conclusion will leave us thinking about the topic.
- A minimum of three (3.5) pages
- Use of at least two sources; your choices are "Little Adult Criminals" (593), "Should Juvenile Offenders Be Tried as Adults?" (596), "Adult Crime, Adult Time" (601), and "Young Voices from the Cell" (606), *True Notebooks*, and *Juvies*. You do not need to conduct any additional research outside of these sources.

- MLA format: name block, general formatting, in-text citations, works cited page
- Grammatical and mechanical errors

What to avoid in your essay:

- Second (you) and first (I) person
- Faulty logic (logos, ethos, and pathos) مطابق
- Writing about entirely subjective topics مصادر → ناسر موقوتونها
- Ending paragraphs without explaining an example's relevance
- Grammatical errors

### Essay #3 Topics

1. "Little Adult Criminals" (593), "Should Juvenile Offenders Be Tried as Adults?" (596), "Adult Crime, Adult Time" (601), "Young Voices from the Cell" (606), *True Notebooks*, and *Juvies* present different views on this question: should children who commit adult crimes be tried as adults or children? Write an essay in which you argue whether or not children who commit "adult" crimes should be tried as adults or as children.
2. "Little Adult Criminals" (593), "Should Juvenile Offenders Be Tried as Adults?" (596), "Adult Crime, Adult Time" (601), "Young Voices from the Cell" (606), *True Notebooks*, and *Juvies* also make commentary on the punishment and sentencing of young offenders. Write an essay in which you argue a logical plan for sentencing and punishing these children.
3. "Little Adult Criminals" (593), "Should Juvenile Offenders Be Tried as Adults?" (596), "Adult Crime, Adult Time" (601), "Young Voices from the Cell" (606), *True Notebooks*, and *Juvies* also present another question: is justice being served by trying these young offenders as adults? Write an essay in which you argue whether or not justice is or is not being served by trying youth as adults.

