

Argumentative Essay

Directions:

- Choose from **ONE** of the possible topics:
 - Capital Punishment
 - Gun Control
- You need to **use THREE sources**—one source has to be from something that we have read and discussed in class, and the second and the third source can be something that we have read together OR that you find on your own.

Sources From Class:

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT:	Gun Control
"Death and Justice" by Edward Koch pg. 199-203	"Gun Control and the Constitution: Should We Amend the Second Amendment?" by Paul M. Barrett pg. 214-216
"A Letter from Ray Jasper, Who Is About To Be Executed" pg. 206-212	"Gun Ownership a Civil Right and a Moral Duty" by Graham Noble pg. 219-222

- You will also have to provide a Works Cited List using the MLA Format**
- You are NOT allowed to use "I," "my," "you," "your," "we," or "our" in your essay.
- Avoid making generalizations in by using **hedging** (using introductory verbs—seem, tend, appear to, indicate, suggest, etc., using appropriate modal auxiliaries—may, might, could, can, etc., using adverbs—possibly, conceivably, perhaps, etc., using adverbs of frequency—sometimes, often, occasionally, etc., using quantifiers—many, some, the majority of, a few, etc.).
- In your supporting evidence, you should use BOTH quote and paraphrase your sources. You must use in-text citations

Structure:

- Your essay will have at least FIVE paragraphs:
 - Introduction
 - First Body Paragraph (1st reason for your opinion)
 - Second Body Paragraph (2nd reason for your opinion)
 - Counterargument/Refutation
 - Conclusion

Length: 3-5 pages + Works Cited List in MLA format

The Good, The Bad & The Ugly: or, Why It's a Good Idea to Evaluate Web Sources

I. Authority

- ☐ Is there an author? Is the page signed?
- ☐ Is the author qualified? An expert?
- ☐ Who is the sponsor?
- ☐ Is the sponsor of the page reputable? How reputable?
- ☐ Is there a link to information about the author or the sponsor?
- ☐ If the page includes neither a signature nor indicates a sponsor, is there any other way to determine its origin?

- Look for a header or footer showing affiliation.
- Look at the URL. <http://www.fbi.gov>
- Look at the domain. .edu, .com, .ac.uk, .org, .net

Rationale

1. Anyone can publish anything on the web.
2. It is often hard to determine a web page's authorship.
3. Even if a page is signed, qualifications are not usually provided.
4. Sponsorship is not always indicated.

II. Accuracy

- ☐ Is the information reliable and error-free?
- ☐ Is there an editor or someone who verifies/checks the information?

Rationale

1. See number 1 above.
2. Unlike traditional print resources, web resources rarely have editors or fact-checkers.
3. Currently, no web standards exist to ensure accuracy.

The Pros and Cons of Capital Punishment

Using "Death and Justice" and "A Letter From Ray Jasper, Who is About to Be Executed", make a list of the reasons for ("pros") and against ("cons") capital punishment. Take notes on SPECIFIC arguments for each side of the argument.

PROS	CONS
- Justen family. - Crime rate. -	

Works Cited List

At university you will have to cite the sources that you use in essays and research papers. We have looked at in-text citations, and now we need to allow the reader to "follow the trail" so that they can find the articles and books you have cited. We do this with a Works Cited list.

Look at page 47 and 48. There is a Works Cited list after the article "Intercultural Communication Stumbling Blocks". Use the Works Cited list to answer the questions below.

1. What comes first the first name or the last name of the author?
2. Is the list in alphabetical order?
3. What punctuation follows the last name?
4. What punctuation follows the first name?
5. How do you know if the source is a book or an article?
6. What comes after the title?
7. What is the last piece of information given?
place
8. What happens when a citation goes to a second line?
date of

*hanging
indent*

X _____
X _____
X _____

OUTLINE for Argumentative Essay

I. Introduction

A. Hook:

Topic

B. Background Information (What is the ISSUE? Briefly, what are the two sides of the argument?):

C. Thesis Statement (YOUR assertion—clearly argue FOR **OR** AGAINST the issue):

Capital punishment is really necessary to decrease crimes and save tax payers money.

II. Body Paragraph 1 (first reason for your opinion)

A. Topic Sentence:

B. First Supporting Detail:

1. Point/Claim

body paragraph

2. Evidence

3. Explanation of HOW the evidence PROVES your point:

C. Second Supporting Detail:

1. Point/Claim

2. Evidence

3. Explanation of HOW the evidence PROVES your point:

D. Closing/Concluding Comment (What conclusion can you make BASED of the evidence you've just presented?):

III. Body Paragraph 2 (second reason for your opinion)

A. Topic Sentence:

B. First Supporting Detail:

1. Point/Claim

2. Evidence

3. Explanation of HOW the evidence PROVES your point:

C. Second Supporting Detail:

1. Point/Claim

2. Evidence

3. Explanation of HOW the evidence PROVES your point:

D. Closing/Concluding Comment (What conclusion can you make BASED of the evidence you've just presented?):

IV. Body Paragraph 3 (Counterargument/Refutation)

A. Counterargument (the opposing position):

1. Point/Claim:

2. Evidence:

3. Explanation/Comment:

B. Refutation :

1. Argument which is **directly against** the counterargument

2. Evidence:

3. Explanation/Comment:

C. Closing/Concluding Comment (What conclusion can you make BASED of the evidence you've just presented?):

V. Conclusion

A. Restate Thesis (your assertion FOR **OR** AGAINST the issue):

B. Summarize Main Ideas Presented in the Essay (do NOT give any NEW information):

C. Concluding Comment (suggestion/recommendation, prediction, opinion)—“close the circle”

List of Connectors and Transition Words: