

Major Assignment 3 – English 1101 Persuasive Essay

For this major assignment you will write a persuasive essay on an approved topic of your choice. I want you to pick something that is of personal importance to you, but avoid hot-button issues that are based on religious beliefs or deeply held values rather than research. This is not because I question the legitimacy of anyone's beliefs, but to help keep the focus on rhetorical strategies and research.

Without using references to yourself (“I think,” “I feel,” “I believe,” “in my personal opinion,” “It seems to me,” etc.), explain to your audience why your stance on the topic makes sense. You will need to take a clear stand on the topic, explain why you have that viewpoint, and bring in outside evidence to support your ideas. This means you will have to do research and find at least two reliable academic sources from which you can pull quotes and paraphrases to back up your stance on the issue.

- Introductory paragraph which includes a thesis statement at the end
- The body of the paper will develop and support your thesis statement
- You will give a final solid conclusion in your essay's last paragraph which reinforces your argument and gives a final statement reiterating your views on the topic, while not introducing new information
- You must use two or more reliable academic sources
- Use at least one strategically placed direct quote or paraphrase in each body paragraph (not the introduction and conclusion). Use an approximately equal number of direct quotes and paraphrases. Direct quotes and paraphrases together should make up no more than 10-15% of your paper.
- Paper will be double-spaced throughout, with 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font.

Expectations and Due Dates

Criteria and Set-up

- A minimum of 1000 – 1500 words
- Correctly use MLA or APA conventions for formatting, in-text parenthetical citations, and Works Cited page.
- Formatting: Double-spaced, 1-inch margins, and 12 pt. font (formatting rules in your syllabus)

Content:

- Audience: Educated readers whom you want to understand and hopefully accept your point of view on the topic
- Formal academic tone: No use of “I” to refer to yourself or “you” to refer to your audience, and no contractions
- Logically organized paragraphs, linked with transitions to make the paper “flow” from idea to idea

Due Dates:

- 150-250 word write up on the topic about which you want to write: Bring to class on **Wed., Nov. 1**. Bring one hard copy, printed or handwritten, to class.
- MA3 Thesis statement/Outline due **Mon., Nov. 6**. Bring one hard copy to class, and put one in iCollege drop box before class
- 1st Rough draft due **Wed., Nov. 8** – one hard copy to class, and one in iCollege dropbox
- 2nd Rough draft due **Mon., Nov. 13** – one hard copy to class, and one in iCollege dropbox
- Final Draft due at 11:59 PM on **Tues., Nov. 14 at 11:59 pm** via iCollege dropbox.