

Essay 4: Making & Defending an Argument

topic (1/2 page, 1 pt.) due	Wednesday, October 24
outline (typed, 2 pages, 1.5 pts.) due	Monday, October 29
rough draft (typed, 4 pages, 2 pts.) due	Wednesday, October 31
meet with a writing tutor by**	Tuesday, November 6
final draft (typed, 4+ pages, 10 pts.) due	Wednesday, November 7

Topic

Writing can be a powerful form of persuasion, so reading and responding to an author's argument are important skills to learn. In this essay, you will make the transition from analytical writing to argumentative writing, a common type of college writing.

Choose one of these following contemporary issues, take a clear position on it, and write a well-developed argumentative essay (4+ pages / 6+ paragraphs):

1. being bilingual v. English-only laws

- "Why & When We Speak in Spanish in Public," Myriam Marquez (531- 533)
- "The English-Only Movement: Can America Proscribe Language with a Clear Conscience?," Jake Jamieson (261-266)

2. crime and punishment (shame, three strikes, etc.)

- "Condemn the Crime, Not the Person," June Tangney (569-572)
- "Shame Is Worth a Try," Dan M. Kahan (574-576)
- "Petty Crime, Outrageous Punishment," Carl M. Cannon (579-584)

3. the impact of marketing and advertising on people's lives

- "The Piracy of Privacy: Why Marketers Must Bare Our Souls," Allen D. Kanner (587-591)
- "Marketing Ate Our Culture—But It Doesn't Have To," Terry O'Reilly (594-599)

Your essay should have a clear and specific thesis statement that previews your supporting paragraphs. You don't have to agree or disagree with any one of the authors; instead, you need to state a position and support it. Incorporate and analyze quotations from the related articles in *Models for Writers*. You may also include examples from your own experiences or the real world to support your thesis.

Audience & Purpose

Assume that your reader is familiar with your topic but does not agree with your point of view. You will attempt to persuade your reader that your position is valid.

Structure & Content Checklist

- ___ Write a creative title and hook for your essay.
- ___ Identify the authors and titles of the articles in your introduction. Your introduction should also explain the context or background of the debatable topic.
- ___ The thesis statement must specifically and directly state the main points and position of your essay.
- ___ Use clear topic sentences and transitions to provide a structure for your essay; do not begin or end a supporting paragraph with a quotation.

Structure & Content Checklist cont.

- ___ Include one quotation from the book plus an outside example in each supporting paragraph.
- ___ Cite each quotation properly – for example: “The ads underwrite the programs or content” (O’Reilly 597).
- ___ Use present-tense verbs to write about the articles from the book.
- ___ Write a strong conclusion that summarizes and wraps up the entire essay.
- ___ Make your best effort to edit and proofread your sentences.
- ___ Format your paper properly: double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point font such as Times New Roman.

Related Reading Assignments

Models for Writers: thesis statements (81-83), organization (119-123), transitions (193-194), argumentation (539-546), & incorporating quotations (654-656)

Process - You must complete and submit all of the following:

- ___ typed final draft
- ___ tutoring receipt**
- ___ typed rough draft
- ___ peer reviewer’s comments
- ___ typed outline
- ___ topic & prewriting notes

** If you are unable to see a tutor for this essay, you may bring your completed rough draft to my advice hours.

- Bring this assignment sheet, your draft, and the textbook when you see a tutor at the Language Success Center.
- Please feel free to visit my advice hours (MTW 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & Th 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) or email me (neil.watkins@chaffey.edu) at any point in your writing process.

Topic Questions (due Wednesday, October 24)

1. Which topic have you chosen for this assignment?
2. Why have you chosen this topic?
3. What is your position on that topic? What are some possible reasons to support that position?
4. What obstacles might you face in writing this essay?
5. When & where do you plan to write the essay?

