

## Writing Project 4

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### Argument of Definition

*Writing Arguments* states that definition arguments are arguments about what category something belongs to. The authors state that “They are among the most common argument types you will encounter. They occur whenever you claim that a particular person, thing, act, or phenomenon belongs (or does not belong) within a certain category” (211). For this assignment, you will be asked to:

- Argue why a specific definition of a controversial term central to a current issue is necessary in order to shape future actions dealing with that issue.
- Support your definition with evidence, including a minimum of **4 primary and/or secondary sources**.

Your argument must:

- Define the term specifically, including necessary and/or sufficient conditions.
- Focus on a current issue that is relevant to politics or policies today.
- Apply the term to the current issue by providing criteria and matching them to the issue.
- Present how that term is and is not defined, supporting your claims about that term with evidence.
- Explain how the new definition would change the understanding of the issue, and how this change might shape future actions dealing with that issue.

The **audience** for this proposal should be policy makers related to your issue. This audience will be different from paper to paper, but in general, the tone of the paper should be formal.

The paper must be a minimum of **1,600 words** excluding references. All drafts (including the first) must meet the minimum word count.

Additional General requirements: All drafts must be typed, double-spaced, and in Times New Roman 12-point font. Please use 1-inch margins. All documents must be accessible through Microsoft Word. All citations should be in **APA format**.

Grading Criteria:

- **Clear Focus on Defining the Term:** The central focus of the paper is the term being defined. This definition is clearly presented and all other content in the paper revolves around this definition. The definition is easy to understand and reasonable.
- **Strong Connection of the Term to a Current Issue:** The term is connected directly to a current issue. How this definition affects that issue is clearly presented.

- **Well-Supported Rationale for the Definition:** The reason for defining the term in this way is clear. Support is given for this definition. This support conforms to the STAR criteria discussed in Writing Project One.
- **Thoughtful and Convincing Reflection Upon Definition:** The writer reflects upon how this definition will change the argument. The changes presented are well-supported and reasonable.
- **Attention to Controversy:** The writer addresses the controversy surrounding the term. He or she addresses possible objections to the definition presented.
- **Attention to Audience:** The paper is addressed to policy-makers related to the term. The tone is formal.
- **Content Organization:** The content of the paper is organized in a reasonable way. There is both an introduction and a conclusion. Paragraphs are ordered in such a way that they cannot be reordered at random, but instead provide logical transitions between ideas.
- **Attention to Assignment:** The paper adheres to the assignment as presented above, addresses the audience stipulated, follows the formatting requirements, and presents citations in APA format in footnotes to the letter.
- **Manuscript preparation:** The writer has made changes between drafts that reflect attention to both instructor and peer comments. The writer has made an effort to improve his or her paper.

Important Dates:

- **Monday, April 11:** First draft due for instructor comments.
- **Wednesday, April 20:** Revised draft due for peer review.
- **Monday, May 2:** Final draft due for grading.