

WP3: An Argument of Definition

For the final writing project, you'll be asked to make an argument of definition. This kind of argument focuses on how you define a term or phrase and/or what categories certain terms fall into. For this assignment, you must:

- Select a term or phrase related to a current issue. This issue must be controversial and related to a political or policy debate. The definition of the term should have an important effect on this debate.
- Define the term or phrase yourself using research, logic, rhetorical appeals, and other support. This support should include no fewer than **6 outside sources of information**: these sources should include at least **3 scholarly sources** and at least **1 alternative research source**.
- Include necessary and sufficient conditions for your definition.
- Explain why your definition is appropriate for this debate and is more appropriate than other possible definitions.
- Apply your definition to the political or policy debate.
- Explain how your definition will change that debate.

Minimum length: 1,600 words (excluding the references page).

Audience: Policy makers related to the issue you have chosen. For example, if you choose an issue that is related to local policies, your audience might be the Tempe City Council or the Arizona State Legislature. If you choose an issue of national or even global policy, your audience might be the US Legislature or The United Nations.

Citation format: Your citations must be in APA style. You need both in-text citations and a references page with full citations.

Additional Requirements: All drafts must be typed, double-spaced, and in Times New Roman 12-point font. Please use 1-inch margins. All analysis documents must be uploaded and shared in Google Docs. Please name all attached files using your own name, the writing project, and your class (i.e. "Ryan Shepherd WP3 ENG 102").

Grading: This assignment is worth **25%** of your total grade for the class. It will be graded on the following:

1. **Clear identification of the term being defined:** The term is presented right up front and is clearly the focus of the paper.
2. **Clear and concise definition:** The definition of the term is clearly presented, no longer than necessary, and easy to understand.
3. **Clear identification of the issue to which the term applies:** The issue that the term relates to is clearly stated. The definition is clearly applied to this issue.

4. **Relevance of the term to the issue:** The term clearly affects the debate related to the issue. These effects are explored.
5. **Necessary and sufficient conditions are stated:** The necessary and sufficient conditions for the definition are presented.
6. **Sufficient support for your definition:** You provide enough support using logic, research, rhetorical appeals, and other support. This support clearly helps you make your point about the definition.
7. **Appropriate scholarly research:** You have selected appropriate research from scholarly sources to help make your points.
8. **Appropriate incorporation of research:** Quotes and other data from the research are incorporated into your paper effectively. Research is explained and applied directly to your argument.
9. **Exploration of how your term applies to the debate:** You clearly state how this new definition affects the debate and is more appropriate than other definitions.
10. **Attention to the Audience:** The paper is appropriate for the audience being addressed. In this case, the tone is likely to be formal.
11. **Content Organization:** You have organized the content of your analysis in a reasonable way. Your information is easy to understand, and your points are easy to follow. There is both an introduction and a conclusion. The content is organized so as to present the information effectively. Paragraphs are ordered in such a way that they cannot be reordered at random, but instead provide logical transitions between ideas.
12. **Attention to Assignment:** You adhere to the assignment as presented above, including main objectives, word count, attention to audience, and the additional requirements. You clearly understand what the assignment is asking you to do and are attempting to do it.
13. **Manuscript preparation:** You have made changes between drafts that reflect attention to both instructor and peer comments. You have made an effort to improve your paper.

The first draft is due on **April 5th**.

The revised draft is due on **April 15th**.

The final draft is due on **April 24th**.