

Argument Assignment

Your third major assignment for this class is writing an Argument. This assignment is by far the largest part of your grade at 25 points or 25% of your final grade.

- Your argument must be **4-7 full pages long**. The writing should be in 12-point font (Times New Roman or equivalent) and should be double spaced.
- Your issue must be **reasonably argumentative**, meaning that a reasonable person could both agree and disagree with your topic.
- Your issue must be **reasonably small**, meaning that you can explain the issue and your arguments well in 4-7 pages.
- Your paper must include a minimum of **3 outside sources**, such as books, magazines, journals, or scholarly websites.
- A photocopy of all sources used in your paper must be included with your second and final drafts.
- Your paper must include at least three good reasons why you believe that your opinion is true. These reasons must be supported with logic and facts from your sources.

For this assignment, you will need to do three drafts:

- The first draft is due on **Tuesday, November 17th** for peer review.
- The second draft is due on **Tuesday, November 24th** for instructor feedback.
- The final draft is due on **Thursday, December 10th** for final grading.

Late or incomplete drafts:

- All drafts must be complete (with both a resume and a cover letter), including the first draft. If a draft is incomplete, it will lose up to 5 points.
- All drafts must be turned in on time. Late drafts will lose one point per day (up to 5 points). Late drafts begin losing points at the **beginning** of class on the due date. If you do not have the draft at that time, it's late. Drafts more than 5 days late will not be accepted.
- Second and final drafts must include all previous drafts. The second draft must include the first draft, and the final draft must include the first and second draft. If you do not turn in previous drafts, you will lose up to 5 points.
- Second and final drafts must be changed and improved for the next draft. If a draft is turned in unchanged, you will lose up to 5 points.

Your final draft will be graded on the following questions:

- Did you follow the assignment, including format and page length?
- Is your argument reasonably argumentative and reasonably small?
- Do you argue your points well? Are your arguments reasonable and convincing?
- Are your arguments supported by facts, statistics, opinions, and so on from your sources?

- Do you have at least 3 scholarly outside sources?
- Are your sources cited correctly both in the bibliography and in-text citations?
- Are your quotes and paraphrases correct and appropriate?
- Is your paper clear and easy to understand?
- Does your paper have correct grammar, spelling, word choice, conjunctions, and punctuation?
- Does your paper improve between drafts? Are the second and final drafts better than the first draft?

Argument Structure

There are several ways to organize arguments, but the most common and the most simple way is as follows:

- I. Introduction
 - a. Eyecatcher
 - b. Background
 - c. Thesis
- II. First Point
 - a. Topic Sentences
 - b. Explanatory Sentences
 - c. Transition
- III. Second Point
 - a. Topic Sentences
 - b. Explanatory Sentences
 - c. Transition
- IV. Third Point
 - a. Topic Sentences
 - b. Explanatory Sentences
 - c. Transition
- V. Counterpoints (Optional: Might be part of other sections)
 - a. Topic Sentences
 - b. Explanatory Sentences
- VI. Conclusion
 - a. Summary
 - b. Draw Out