

ENG 130: Argumentative Research Essay

Background:

- You have completed research on August Wilson, his life, and his plays.
- You have completed reading/viewing *Fences* by August Wilson.
- You have read the resources on Conflict in this unit.

Prompt (what will you be writing about):

- Which conflict does Wilson use most to drive (bring forth, move forward) all the other elements of the story?

Choose ONE that you feel is more apparent and easier to defend than the others.

- Troy vs Society
- Troy vs Himself
- Troy vs Family
- Troy vs Death

Helpful Notes:

- Thesis:
 - Your thesis is the response to the prompt question plus the supporting areas that you will be using to defend your argument. Be sure to have a thesis that clearly states which conflict you feel is the most important and drives the other conflicts.
 - Your thesis could begin with, "In the play, *Fences*, August Wilson uses the conflict of _____ to drive the other conflicts and elements of the story as evidenced by...."
- Sources and evidence:
 - Be sure to use things that you have learned about Wilson's life and his writings. For example, if you are analyzing Troy and his father's conflict, you could bring in information that you researched about Wilson's relationship with his own father.
 - Include direct quotations from the play. To cite a direct quote from a play, the format is:
 - "quotation" (Wilson, 1985, act #, scene #, line #).
 - OR
 - As Wilson (1985) writes, "quote" (act#, scene #, line#).
 - Use at least three outside sources. Two of them could be from your previous research essay. Be sure to include all of these in your reference page.

Requirements:

- Length and format: 3-4 pages.
- The title page and reference page are also required, but they should not be factored into the 3-4 page length of the essay.
- It should also be double spaced, written in Times New Roman, in 12 point font and with 1 inch margins. Essay should conform to APA formatting and citation style.
- Use the third-person, objective voice, avoiding personal pronouns such as “I,” “you,” “we,” etc.
- Use APA format for in-text citations and references when using outside sources and textual evidence.
- Skills to be assessed with this assignment: creating effective thesis statements, incorporating research, analyzing rhetoric.
- **Please be cautious about plagiarism.** Make sure to use in-text citations for direct quotes, paraphrases, and new information.

Argumentative Research Essay Rubric

	Does Not Meet Expectations 0-11	Below Expectations 12-13	Needs Improvement 14-15	Satisfactory 16-17	Meets Expectations 18-20
Introduction	Introduction is not present.	Background details are a random collection of information, unclear, or not related to the topic.	Introduction is attempted and explains the background, but may lack detail.	Introduction explains the background, including an overview of the essay's main points.	Introduction uses interesting anecdotes, questions, or other information to build interest. Many to all main points are logically related and developed.
Organization	Many details are not in a logical or expected order. The paper does not use paragraphs. Topic and/or transition sentences are not used	Writing may have little discernible organization, but some details are not in a logical or expected order. The paper uses paragraphs ineffectively. Topic and transition sentences are used inadequately.	Writing has adequate discernible organization. Paragraphs are generally used effectively. Topic and Transition sentences are present in some of the sections	Writing is organized and details are placed in a logical order. Paragraphs are mostly used effectively. Topic and Transition sentences are used effectively.	Writing is effective, purposeful, and well-organized. Paragraphs are used effectively. Topic and Transition sentences add to the understanding and flow of the essay.
Persuasiveness	Fails to develop arguments.	Some arguments are developed, but may be missing one or need further elaboration.	Develops most arguments.	Satisfactorily develops arguments.	Expertly and fully develops arguments.
Evidence and Support	Does not include text support and/or text support is not cited.	Very little evidence is given and used in the essay properly. Research evidence is not incorporated. Evidence may not relate to the thesis statement. Evidence is cited but not with the proper formatting.	Some evidence is used from one research source and/or evidence is somewhat related to the thesis statement. Evidence may or may not always cited properly.	Evidence is used from two outside sources and/or evidence is mostly tied to the thesis statement and used properly and is cited properly.	Evidence is integrated from at least three outside sources and/or evidence is used effectively and cited properly.
Integration of Knowledge	The essay demonstrates that the author has not fully understood and applied concepts learned in the course.	The essay demonstrates gaps in knowledge of applied concepts learned in the course.	The essay demonstrates that the author, to a certain extent, understands and has applied concepts learned in the course.	The essay demonstrates that the author, for the most part, understands and has applied concepts learned in the course. Some of the conclusions, however, are not	The essay demonstrates that the author fully understands and has applied concepts learned in the course. Concepts are integrated into the writer's own insights. The writer provides

				supported in the body of the paper.	concluding remarks that show analysis and synthesis of ideas.
APA Format	APA format is not followed.	Errors evident throughout all of the areas: 1 inch margins, correctly formatted title page, correctly formatted reference page, double spacing, Times New Roman, 12 font.	Errors evident in three to four of the areas of: 1 inch margins, correctly formatted title page, correctly formatted reference page, double spacing, Times New Roman, 12 font.	Errors evident in one to two of the areas of: 1 inch margins, correctly formatted title page, correctly formatted reference page, double spacing, Times New Roman, 12 font.	Free of errors in: 1 inch margins, correctly formatted title page, correctly formatted reference page, double spacing, Times New Roman, 12 font.
Grammar and Mechanics	Grammar and mechanics' errors make the essay incomprehensible.	Grammar, spelling, punctuation, and mechanics errors occur throughout document. Word choices are seldom academic. Sentence structure may be illogical or unclear.	Several errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling and mechanics present. Word choice reveals some understanding of academic language requirements. Many sentence structure issues exist.	Some spelling, grammar, punctuation and mechanical errors are evident. Academic language is upheld. The sentence structure is often logical and clear so that relationships among ideas are established.	Free of punctuation, spelling, grammar, and other mechanical errors. Consistent use of academic word choices. Sentence structure is mostly logical and clear.

***A zero can be earned if the above criteria are not met.**

***Plagiarism will result in a zero.**