

Argumentative Writing Assignment- Outline

Due: by 11:59pm on Sunday of Unit 6.

We have moved from description to evaluation in the previous two essays. Now, we are working on crafting an argument. In order to prove your specific argument, you will need to use both description and evaluation. Evidence will back up your argument. As you conduct research, you will need to evaluate how effective that evidence is and determine in what way you will use that evidence. Details and description are also important aspects of creating an argument. Details often can make or break your argument.

You will be creating an argumentative essay in Unit 7. Now, you are creating an outline for the Argumentative Writing Assignment. The outline must include your plan for an argumentative essay about ONE of the three subjects below. You may use the thesis question below the subject or create your own thesis question about the subject.

1. Communication Skills and Smartphones

- How have smartphones had a negative or a positive impact on people's communication skills?

2. Media and Truth

- What responsibility do you think the media has to promoting truth for the American audience?

3. Education and Uniformity

- Why or why not should all students wear the same uniforms within their school system?

Assignment Requirements

This assignment is designed to demonstrate your plan for your Argumentative Writing Assignment. Please keep in mind that the outline will lead to your full essay.

Thesis Question and Answer

Begin with the question you selected above. Then, answer the question with a working thesis statement that features the specific topics of your outline.

Outline of Supporting Paragraphs

Please do not include full paragraphs here. Rather, outline the body paragraphs. In your outline, include at least two points that support your thesis statement as well as one point that will address the counterargument (the other side of your argument).

In the outline, include the names of the three scholarly and academic articles that you will be using in your essay and indicate where they will appear in your supporting paragraphs. You should also include a reference page with an entry for each article. Utilize the library resources to find sources for your essay.

Sample Outline Format

You may use this as a guide to formatting the outline. Please keep in mind that you will have to fully explain each of the areas highlighted below in your outline with well-thought out phrases and/or complete sentences. You should stick to third person in the outline and avoid using first/second person.

Thesis Question

Thesis Statement

Outline of Supporting Paragraphs

A. Supporting Paragraph Topic 1

a. Explanation of Topic

b. Evidence

B. Supporting Paragraph Topic 2

a. Explanation of Topic

b. Discussion of Counterargument

c. Evidence

C. Supporting Paragraph Topic 3

a. Explanation of Topic

b. Evidence

References page

Length, Organization, and Grammar

In order for the outline to be effective, it needs to include substantial information that comprises a plan for the essay.

- The outline itself should be at least two pages long. The assignment should also include an APA-style title page and headers, be double spaced, written in 12 point Times New Roman font, and have 1 inch margins.

- Include the following –
 - A minimum of three APA in-text citations for the three sources you plan to use in the outline. Each topic/body paragraph should include one piece of evidence. You may quote, paraphrase, or summarize that evidence so that it is clear where you will use it in the essay.
 - Your outline should include sources to support your thesis statement and argument, but make sure to show the reader the other side of your argument to avoid being biased by including how you plan to address the counterargument.
 - An APA reference page with a minimum of three entries.
- Be sure to use the Writing Tips page to help with your APA formatting and other resources provided in previous units of this course.
- Your writing should be free of punctuation, spelling, and grammar errors and contain appropriate word choice for an academic setting with clear sentence structure.

Students: Be sure to read the criteria, by which your paper/project will be evaluated, before you write, and again after you write.

Evaluation Rubric for *Argumentative Writing- Outline* Assignment

	Emerging 0-10	Progressing 11-14	Accomplished 15-17	Exemplary 18-20
Outline	Many details are not in a logical or expected order. Standard outline format is not used. The outline is significantly less than 2 pages in length.	Outline may have some discernible organization, but some details are not in a logical or expected order. Standard format is partially used. The outline is moderately less than 2 pages in length.	Outline is organized. Details are placed in a logical order. Standard outline format is mostly used. The outline is slightly less than 2 pages in length.	Outline is effective, purposeful, and well organized. Standard outline format is used. The outline is 2 pages in length.
Thesis Question and Thesis Statement	Thesis question and/or thesis statement are either not clear or not present. Thesis statement does not answer the thesis question.	Thesis is attempted with little relation to the thesis question. Thesis statement is somewhat unclear or confusing.	Thesis is present and answers the thesis question. Thesis statement is mostly clear and includes supporting topics.	Thesis is present and answers the thesis question. Thesis statement is clear and includes well thought-out supporting topics.
Evidence	No sources are indicated in the outline or sources are not properly cited in the outline.	At least one source is indicated in the outline. Sources are not properly cited in the outline.	At least two sources are indicated in the outline. Sources are mostly cited	At least three sources are indicated in the outline. Sources are correctly cited in the outline.

			properly in the outline.	
APA Format	Paper is missing more than two of the following or more than two of the following are not formatted correctly: a title page, headers, and is double spaced in 12 pt Times New Roman font. Paper does not include the use of in-text citations and reference page entries.	Paper is missing two of the following or two of the following are not formatted correctly: a title page, headers, and is double spaced in 12 pt Times New Roman font. Paper does not include the use of in-text citations or reference page entries.	Paper is missing one of the following or one of the following is not formatted correctly: a title page, headers, and is double spaced in 12 pt Times New Roman font. Paper includes the use of in-text citations and reference page entries.	Paper includes all of the following and is correctly formatted: a title page, headers, and is double spaced in 12 pt Times New Roman font. Paper includes very few errors in the use of in-text citations and reference page entries.
Grammar and Mechanics	Writing is hard to understand because of errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Word choice is inappropriate for an academic setting. Sentence structure is often unclear. Outline rarely or does not use the third-person perspective and an objective tone.	Writing is sometimes difficult to understand because of several errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Word choice is sometimes inappropriate for an academic setting. Sentence structure is sometimes unclear. Outline inconsistently uses a third-person perspective and objective tone.	Writing is easy to understand despite minor errors in punctuation, spelling, and grammar. Appropriate word choice is used for an academic setting. Sentence structure is mostly clear. Outline mostly uses a third-person perspective and objective tone.	Writing is free of almost all punctuation, spelling, and grammar errors. Appropriate word choice is used for an academic setting. Sentence structure is clear. Outline is written in the third-person perspective with an objective tone.