

Argumentative Writing Assignment

Due: by 11:59pm on Sunday of Unit 7.

For the first part of the Argumentative Writing Assignment you submitted in Unit 6, you developed an outline about one of the subjects below. In this second part of the Argumentative Writing Assignment, you will need to continue with that subject to turn the outline into a complete essay. As noted in the outline assignment, you may use the questions below to create the argumentative essay, or you may craft your own thesis question based on 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 students all wear the same uniforms within their school system?

Assignment Requirements

The Argumentative Writing Assignment requires that you form an argument in favor of a specific position on one of the subjects above. In the assignment, you will be using three academic and scholarly sources; two articles should be in favor of your position and one article should feature the counterargument. The essay itself should be written in third person, and not first or second person.

Thesis Statement and Argument

The thesis statement is your main argument that steers the essay. This research paper must present an original thesis that is strongly supported throughout your whole essay. Within that thesis statement, make sure to highlight the topics you will use to prove your argument.

Body Paragraphs and Evidence

Each of your body paragraphs should focus on one topic that supports your argument. You will also want to include the counterargument within your essay to show that you have an understanding and respect for the other side. Within your essay, use at least two academic and scholarly sources to support your claim and one source to discuss the counterargument. All researched information must be accurately cited according to APA format. You will need to include at least three parenthetical, in-text citations and three references for the sources used in your essay. A references page should be placed at the end of the paper. Please use the Library's Academic Journal resources to find your sources.

Introduction and Conclusion

The introduction should set up the essay for the reader. What information is necessary for the reader to have at the start of the essay so that the rest of the essay makes sense? You should end the introduction with your arguable thesis statement. The conclusion ends the essay, and you want to use it to wrap up your ideas. You should bring up the thesis statement, but you do not have to restate it. Your conclusion should leave the reader with your final impression of the subject. The introduction and conclusion should be tied together *but they should not be exact replicas of each other*.

Length, Organization, and Grammar

Follow these guidelines to write your Argumentative Writing Assignment:

- This essay itself should be four pages in length. The assignment should also include an APA-style title page and headers, be double spaced, written in 12 point Times New Roman font, have 1 inch margins, and include a reference page for all sources used within the essay.
- Include the following-
 - A minimum of three APA in-text citations corresponding to the three sources you use in your essay.
 - An APA reference page with a minimum of three entries.
 - Use your 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.
- Be sure to use the Writing Tips page to help with your APA formatting.
- 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* Assignment

	Novice 0-10	Emerging 11-14	Competent 15-17	Exemplary 18-20
Introduction and Conclusion	Introduction and/or the conclusion are not present. Introduction/conclusion are very hard to understand and significantly missing details.	Introduction and conclusion are attempted. The introduction and conclusion may be lacking details to properly set up and then wrap up the essay. The introduction/conclusion are not related.	Introduction and conclusion nicely set up and wrap up the essay. The introduction/conclusion could relate better.	Introduction and conclusion effectively set up and wrap up the essay. The introduction/conclusion relate well to each other.
Organization and Structure	Many details are not in a logical or expected order. The paper does not use paragraphs. Writing is significantly less than 4 pages in length.	Writing may have some discernible organization, but some details are not in a logical or expected order. The paper uses paragraphs ineffectively. Writing is moderately less than 4 pages in length.	Writing is organized and details are placed in a logical order. Paragraphs are mostly used effectively. Writing is slightly less than 4 pages in length.	Writing is effective, purposeful, and well-organized. Paragraphs are used effectively. Writing is 4 pages in length.
Argument and Counterargument	Fails to develop arguments and/or counterarguments. No clear thesis to highlight the argument.	Some argument(s) and counterargument(s) are developed, but may be missing one or need further elaboration. Thesis attempts to highlight the argument, though clarification is needed.	Develops most argument(s) and counterarguments. Thesis highlights the argument with only minor need for clarification.	Fully develops argument(s) and counterarguments fairly. Thesis highlights the argument well.
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	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. Some evidence is used in the essay properly.	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	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. Evidence is used in the essay properly.

	entries. Very little evidence is used in the essay properly.		page entries. Evidence is mostly used in the essay properly.	
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. Paper 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. Paper 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. Paper 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. Paper is written in the third-person perspective with an objective tone.