

Lone Star College CyFair
English 1302 Composition and Rhetoric II
Professor S. Joshua, MA

Toulmin Argument Essay Assignment Guide

Objective: In the course of writing this essay, students will learn the foundational components of research methodologies and information literacy. Students will learn to:

- Formulate questions that can be investigated through research, collaboration, and writing
- Structure an argument using the Toulmin method, demonstrating understanding of the six key components of argument - data, qualifiers, claim, warrants, rebuttal, and backing
- Develop a thesis that articulates a specific point of view or claim
- Determine the extent and type of information needed, drawing upon a variety of sources
- Conduct responsible research by evaluating and synthesizing relevant valid sources
- Integrate source material effectively and ethically into coherent formal writing to accomplish a specific purpose
- Document sources accurately using MLA documentation methods
- Demonstrate academic integrity by avoiding plagiarism

Controversial Topics:

Food insecurity

US economy

Police brutality

Central American Free Trade Agreement

Sentencing and prison reform

(CAFTA)(2005)

Gig economy

Format: Writers will craft a 5-7 page (1500-2100 words) essay; essays that do not meet this development (length) requirement will receive a failing grade.

Research Requirement: Writers must integrate at least three (3) academically credible sources into this essay; one (1) of these sources must be an article from a scholarly journal or peer-reviewed periodical.

Essays that do not integrate and correctly attribute these sources will receive a failing grade. Essays will be submitted to D2L and will receive a Turnitin Similarity Report which indicates the percentage of the essay's text that is similar to other published and archived texts. Essays that receive a report of 30-49% similarity to other sources will earn a failing grade (59/100); essays that receive a report of 50% or higher will earn a zero grade (0/100). Students can see the

Turnitin Similarity Report when they upload their essays, and they are free to revise and upload an improved copy before the assignment deadline. The last version of the essay posted is the one graded.