Categorical/Definitional Argument Assignment (Criteria Based)

Essay 1 for ENGL 1302 assigned 2/3

Categorical (when a definition is already established or agreed on)

Or Definitional (when there is a dispute about the boundaries of the category)

**These types of arguments usually follow the formula X (is/is not) Y because of A, B, C.**

X= subject

Y= category

A, B, and C= reasons to support the claim (criteria to establish the definition or category)

[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjUoLOk0ezYAhVxjK0KHdTsBQsQjRwIBw&url=https://blog.intercom.com/running-closed-betas-which-users-and-how-long/&psig=AOvVaw2AS2-NLKeahCv_mNHwCtep&ust=1516746783187624)You need to first establish a question that will become your argument.

Example:

* Is water wet?
  + <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugyqOSUlR2A>

Other possible questions to tackle:

* Are race-car drivers "athletes"?
* Is alcoholism a "disease," a "disorder," a "condition," or none of the above?
* Should pornography be constitutionally protected as "free speech"?
* Are Americans excessively materialistic?
* Is capital punishment "cruel and unusual punishment," or is it a justifiable response?
* Is abortion "murder," a "woman's right to choose," or both?

For the purpose of this essay you will come up with a question that is importantor interesting to you. Your research to answer the question will be fact based. Remember the formula to craft your thesis statement to include the topic and category to create a claim, and the supporting criteria for proof.

Your paper should be four pages long, typed, double-spaced, and carefully proofread. You should use MLA guidelines for formatting and include a Works Cited page with a minimum of four scholarly or credible articles. The dictionary can not be a source.

In your conclusion, be sure to state your case clearly and directly so that your audience feels as if they have a better understanding of the category or definition of your topic.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**2/19 Bring full draft hard copy to class for peer review**

**On your own Lab to make revisions and additions**

**2/21 All essays are due at the end of class**

* [](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjFx-ig0OzYAhUDa60KHVWYBPcQjRwIBw&url=https://ds.lclark.edu/ktkelly/2016/01/28/revising-my-concentration-questions/&psig=AOvVaw2AS2-NLKeahCv_mNHwCtep&ust=1516746783187624)**Any drafts or brainstorming**
* **Peer review**
* **Complete final essay with works cited page**
* **All due in a folder with the final essay on top**