

FYS 101-01: Arguing about Politics in the Age of CNN and Fox News
Short Writing Assignment
Expository Essay

An **expository essay** is a formal essay that investigates an idea, evaluates evidence, expounds on an idea, or sets forth an argument concerning that idea in a clear and concise manner. An expository essay is held together by the following:

- a clear, concise, and well-defined thesis statement that occurs in the first paragraph of the essay;
- clear and logical transitions between the introduction, body, and conclusion of the essay;
- body paragraphs that include evidence and arguments that support your thesis; and
- a conclusion that does not simply restate the thesis but readdresses it in light of the evidence provided.

Background

The immigration issue affects virtually every American, directly or indirectly, often in deeply personal ways. Among the difficult questions that this issue raises are:

- Should we strictly enforce the law and deport people who are here without permission, or would deporting millions of people outweigh their crime?
- Should we welcome more newcomers to build a more vibrant and diverse society, or does this pose too great a threat to national unity?
- Should we accept more of the growing numbers of refugees from war-torn regions, or should we avoid the risk of allowing in people whose backgrounds have not been fully checked?
- Should our priority be to help immigrants assimilate into our distinctively American way of life, including learning English, or should we instead celebrate a growing mosaic of different peoples?

The concerns that underlie this issue are not confined to party affiliation, nor are they captured by labels like “conservative” or “liberal.”

Assignment

Read the issue guide “Coming to America: Who Should We Welcome, What Should We Do?” A PDF of this document can be found on the Canvas page for this course. This guide presents three different options for addressing the immigration issue in the United States. Each option presents advantages as well as disadvantages. Write a 350-500-word formal expository essay in which you identify and explain, in your own words, what you see as the single most significant advantage and the single most significant disadvantage of each of these three options.

Your essay is due no later than midnight on Mon., April 8.

Your essay will be graded based on the following criteria:

- Does it include a clear, concise, and well-defined thesis statement in the first paragraph of the essay?
- Does it stay focused on developing and supporting that thesis in the body paragraphs?
- How well does it explain the issues for the reader, with clear ideas and details that make them easy to understand?
- Are its sentences well-constructed and varied in structure?
- Does each paragraph focus on one main idea?
- Are your paragraphs ordered in a logical way and with clear transitions between them?
- Is it free of grammatical, spelling, capitalization, or punctuation errors?