

Essay Assignment #1 / 1302 / Spring 2019 / JTJ

I. Introduction: An argument is “a form of discourse in which the writer or speaker tries to persuade an audience to accept, reject, or think a certain way about a problem that cannot be solved by scientific or mathematical reasoning alone” (White and Billings 3).

II. Topic: Is Trump’s border wall proposal a viable and valid step in the right direction toward a responsible immigration policy? Or, is it a ludicrous proposal? What is your position? Make a claim, an assertion, a thesis. You must focus your discussion on the local situation, the Rio Grande Valley.

Review the fact/value/policy powerpoint. Your argument may focus on the facts. In other words what is the empirical, factual data in support of your claim? Is there factual evidence that supports the actual effectiveness of a wall? Or, your argument may focus on the moral claim. Is there a moral, philosophical basis for your claim? Thirdly, you may focus on policy. A policy claim recommends a change in policy. Or, you may recommend that the current policy is sound. Your argument may also contain all of the claims discussed above.

III. Model: You must use the **classical model of argument** (See page 2 of this document and see also the model that is located in the Week 2 folder and Chapter 3 of your textbook.): introduction, thesis, evidence, the appeals (*ethos*, *pathos*, *logos*), counterargument and refutation, and conclusion.

IV. Evidence: You must incorporate at least two articles in your discussion, one of which must be Reese Jones’ “Barriers and Walls: Do Barriers Deter Unauthorized Migration?” (See the Week Two folder in Bb.) You must weave all the sources into your essay. Failure to do so will negatively impact your grade. Go to the South Texas Library online and find scholarly articles that support your argument. Or go to the local newspaper archives and find articles there. Your articles must not be older than a year. In other words an article published before January of 2018 will be too old. Use the persuasive appeals, *ethos*, *pathos*, and *logos*.

III. More Specific Instructions:

- Your essay must be 4-6 pages in length;
- Type your essay in MLA format, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font. Submit it via the assignment tab as an attached document;
- Document your sources using MLA format and include a Works Cited page (go to Library, then Resources, then MLA format);
- If you fail to submit your first draft on the due date, 5 points will be deducted from your essay grade. A late final draft will also result in 5 penalty points.
- See the assignment schedule for deadlines.

The Classical Model of Argument (See Chapter 3)

(see Aristotle’s *Rhetoric*)

- I. Introduction
 - A. Lead-in
 - B. Overview
 - C. Background
- II. Position statement (thesis)
- III. Appeals (*ethos*, *pathos*, *logos*) and evidence
 - A. Appeals to ethics, character, authority (*ethos*); to emotions (*pathos*); to reason (*logos*)
 - B. Evidence: citing of statistics, results, findings, examples, laws, relevant passages from authoritative texts
- IV. Counterargument and Refutation (often presented simultaneously with evidence)
- V. Conclusion
 - A. Highlights of key points presented
 - B. Recommendations
 - C. Illuminating restatement of thesis