

Module 5 Assignment: Researched Rebuttal Argument Essay

Overview

The researched rebuttal argument essay will build on all of the previous skills you have practiced as you learn the art of persuasion and argument. Creating a well-developed, respectful argument is a challenge that requires critical thought and respectful understanding. To develop critical thought and deeper understanding of the world, you will work to understand a topic that is important to you from your opposition's perspective, and then craft a credible argument to refute their position. Let's see where you can really make a difference!

You should spend approximately 6 hours on this assignment.

Instructions

1. **Research:** Continue researching the topic you chose in Discussion 1. Find credible sources to help you understand your opposition (at least one source should be your opposition's argument) and to help you support your rebuttal arguments.
 - Your topic should be a *specific person's or organization's* position on an issue that affects you because of some aspect of your identity.
 - For example, if farming is important to your identity, you might choose to write a letter to Michael Bennet arguing that the 2014 Farm Bill that he helped create should be repealed.
2. **Pre-Write:** What is your opposition's position on this topic? Explore their perspective. What are their main claims and arguments? Why do they think the way they do about the issue? What is at stake for them? What common ground do you have between your perspectives? What kinds of evidence can you use to refute their positions and arguments? How can you make them understand your perspective?
3. **Write: Write a letter to your opposition. Craft a letter to your specific person or organization, and refute their arguments.**
 - **Introduction:** Directly address your audience (your opposition). Explain the controversy, as you understand it. Establish common ground between your perspectives. End with a thesis that states your position.
 - **Counterargument:** Examine your opposition's main arguments one at a time, and refute them. Directly address their claims and positions on the issue, and then argue against those claims. Give direct support for your rebuttal arguments.
 - **Conclusion:** Synthesize your main arguments. Re-establish common

ground, and let your reader know what you want them to do, think, or feel after reading your essay. What are your reader's next steps?

4. Tips for Success:

- Be sure to tailor your arguments and support to your *specific audience* (your opposition), and address that audience directly. Incorporate their *specific arguments*, and refute them directly.
- Be sure your rebuttal arguments are supported by clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- Your essay should be approximately 1,200 words.
- You should use 3-5 sources for this essay. At least two of your sources must be academic sources.
- Your essay should contain 2-3 quotations from your sources, and should paraphrase other main ideas. *Use your sources effectively, and stay in control of your argument.* Be sure to use quotation marks and in-text citations appropriately and responsibly.
 - ◆ Create a correctly formatted Works Cited page with an entry for each source you cite within your essay.
- Please be sure to use correct MLA Style for your essay and to create an MLA Works Cited page. Need help with MLA? Please refer to the [CCCOOnline MLA Citation Toolkit](#), or consult the Purdue OWL for more information on [general MLA format](#) or how to create a correctly formatted [MLA Works Cited page](#).
- Proofread your work before submission.

5. Once your assignment is complete, you may submit it to the **Module 5 Assignment folder: Researched Rebuttal Argument Essay**