

Formal Essay Guidelines – Argument Essay

Introduction

During the third learning module of the online Academic Writing 5/6 course, you will focus on applying the skills that you've learned throughout the course. For the Argument Essay (which is your final for this course), you will select a topic from the list provided to argue your position and persuade your reader.

Assignment Objectives

This assignment is designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- Practice writing an essay focused on arguing a specific position on a topic.
- Practice using the steps of the writing process in focused, progressive activities.
- Practice using techniques and skills highlighted in the textbook and MyWritingLab in your writing.

Argument Essay Guidelines

Structure: Write a 2 - 4 page Argument Essay **about your position on a topic (selected below)**.

- Argument essays take a position on an issue and attempt to support or defend that position. (Even though it involves taking a position, it is still an academic essay and should be written in third person, meaning no "I" (first person) or "You" (second person). This means that in arguing for or against a position, **you should avoid statements such as "I believe"** because some argument essays will require the writer to argue the opposite position of what the writer personally believes. The purpose is to *persuade* the reader using objective evidence, anecdotes, and statistics – not to inform the reader of the writer's personal opinion. Refer to page 213 for more information about this style of essay.)
- The essay should 1 intro paragraph, 3 or more supporting paragraphs, and 1 concluding paragraph.
- Each paragraph should be 4-10 sentences long. Body paragraphs should contain a topic sentence, 3 or more supporting sentences in the form of facts, quotations from reputable sources, and statistics. (Because your body paragraphs are part of an essay, they don't require concluding sentences.)

Audience: You are writing this essay to a general academic audience, which includes your instructor and your classmates for this course. (See *HINT: Instructor as the Audience* on page 5 in your textbook.)

Purpose: Your general purpose is to persuade us by stating and supporting your position one of the topics below. You will determine the specific purpose (see *HINT: General and Specific Purpose* on page 5) when write your thesis statement.