

ENG3U: Short Stories and Media Unit

Persuasive Essay Assignment

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads: *"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."*

After watching "Bowling for Columbine", write a five-paragraph persuasive essay (Introduction, 3 body paragraphs, conclusion) examining the controversial issue of gun control and the right to bear arms. Is it each individual's responsibility as an American to support gun rights or have modern weaponry and living conditions made the Second Amendment obsolete?

Things to consider when preparing for your essay:

- What was the population of the United States when the Second Amendment was drafted and how did most Americans live?
- Compare this life to the current living conditions (both urban and rural) of the United States
- What dangers (personal and social) did people face then compared to now?
- Consider the language of the Second Amendment. Do you think it refers to the individual right to possess guns or to the collective right of the people?

Remember this is a formal essay and not a plot summary of the movie. You should include examples from the film, as well as external research that supports your position. Ensure that the sources you use are reliable (Wikipedia and personal blogs are not credible sources).

Your essay should meet the following requirements:

1. 650-800 words
2. Typed and printed (Times New Roman, font size 12)
3. Include 1 credible source per body paragraph (3 body paragraphs in total)
4. Be written in 3rd person (i.e. I, me, we, us, you, our, etc.)
5. No contractions (i.e. can't, won't, don't, couldn't, wouldn't)
6. Be completely original. Plagiarism of any kind will result in a ZERO.
7. MLA format: Title page, in-text citations and Works Cited page
8. Include an interesting and insightful title. Do NOT use "essay" as your title.
9. Detailed Essay Outline (this will be marked and count toward your final grade)
10. Final essay package **must** include: Outline, editing sheets, rough draft, final copy, works cited page, and a rubric

Review Essay Writing

1. **Introduction:** Begin with an interesting statement (“the hook”), set the stage/framework for your main points, thesis (last sentence in your intro)
2. **Thesis:** states WHAT you are proving and HOW you will prove it
3. **Body paragraphs:** Topic sentence, point, evidence (quotation), analysis, concluding sentence (usually provides a link into the next paragraph)
**In persuasive essays, your first 2 body paragraphs will provide support for your thesis. Your 3rd body paragraph will provide a rebuttal for your thesis but will ultimately end off strengthening your original argument. The purpose of this is for you to address that there is another side to the argument, but your position is still much stronger.*
4. **Conclusion:** Restate thesis in different words at the beginning of your conclusion, summarize the main points of your essay, and end with a reflection on how the topic covered can relate to society on a deeper level.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Outline Due Date: _____ (Conference with teacher)2. Rough Draft Due Date: _____ (Editing session)3. Final Copy Due Date: _____ (Full package submitted) |
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