

Outline for Research Paper

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Due Mar 20 by 11pm **Points** 15 **Submitting** a file upload

For this assignment you will use the topic that you plan on using for the research paper. Please review the research paper assignment directions before completing your outline.

Create a topic/phrase outline for your classical argument research paper.

Your outline needs to use Roman numerals (I., II., III., IV., V., VI., etc. for the main points of the argument.

Use Capital letters (A., B., C., D., etc.) for the supporting points. Use short phrases to indicate the main and supporting points (you do not need to write complete sentences).

Include the introduction and a working thesis for the essay.

Remember, the paper will need to take a stand on the issue and your thesis will need to reflect that position. You need to follow the required format for a classical argument.

Classical argument format:

- **Introductions**(may define terms, provide statistics, give background information, give historical information, and provide examples). The introduction may be one to three paragraphs in length.
- **Thesis** – must be placed in the introduction, usually at the end. The thesis must indicate the position the paper will take on the issue.
- **Main point supporting the thesis**– take time to fully detail and explain this reason
 - Evidence supporting this point
- **Main point supporting the thesis**– take time to fully detail and explain this second reason
 - Evidence supporting this point
- **Opposition's main point**– present one of the strongest reasons the opposition has against the thesis
 - Evidence supporting the opposition's point
- **Refutation**– take time to explain the problems with the opposition's point or acknowledge it is valid
 - Evidence to support the rebuttal
- **Opposition's main point**– present another strong reason the opposition has against the thesis
 - Evidence to support the opposition's point
- **Refutation**– take time to explain the problems with the opposition's point or acknowledge it is valid
 - Evidence for the rebuttal
- **Main point supporting the thesis**– present the strongest reason in support of the thesis
 - Evidence to support this point
- **Conclusion**

Classical Argument Research Paper

You are writing an argumentative essay in which you take a stand on the issue. The paper will present a classical argument.

Topic: You must write an argument that discusses a current controversial issue. Your specific topic must have a narrow focus – for example, do not try to write on gun control, but you could write an argument on repelling the concealed carry on college campuses law in Texas.

Length: 1800 words MINIMUM, excluding the works cited page. Papers shorter than the required minimum **WILL NOT** be graded and **WILL** earn a zero with no option for revision.

Audience: You will be writing to a wavering group of your peers. So, become familiar with the characteristics of your classmates. With a wavering audience you will need to include all three appeals: ethical (ethos), emotional (pathos), and logical (logos).

Point of view: The paper will be written entirely in **third person** unless you are using a direct quote. Papers written in first person will receive a 10% (20 point) deduction from the overall grade of the paper.

Format: The paper will use a complete MLA heading rather than a cover sheet. The paper itself needs to be typed, double-spaced with 1 inch margins. You must use MLA format for the parenthetical documentation and the works cited page. Papers without parenthetical documentation and/or a works cited page will receive a failing grade with zero (0) points awarded.. The works cited page is the last page of the paper.

Organization: The paper **MUST** use the pattern for a classical argument (this is the format required for the outline assignment). Failure to follow this pattern will result in the paper receiving a failing grade (grade of 50%). In your paper you will address **three points** for your side of the argument and **two points** for the opposition. You will also need to refute the opposition's points. For a classical argument the thesis is usually placed at the end of the introduction.

Sources: Seven (7) sources are required. General encyclopedias (i.e. Wikipedia, Encarta) are not allowed to be used as source. In addition, you must use at least two different types of sources (print, web, email, interview, video, etc.). Papers that only use one type of source will receive a 10%-point deduction.

Citations: At least ten (10) in-text citations must be used – quotes, paraphrases, summaries. No more than **one** long quote may be used in the paper. A long quote is one that is four or more complete lines in your paper. Quotes that exceed 250 words may be used only with the written permission of the author, as quotes longer than 250 words violate fair use copyright laws. Papers that have more than one long/block quote will receive a 10%-point deduction for each additional long/block quote.

Documentation: All in-text (parenthetical citations must be in correct MLA format. Also, the works cited page must be in current MLA 2016 format (MLA8). If you use an outdated MLA format it will impact your grade. If you use another documentation format (APA, CMS) it will significantly impact your grade as this course requires the use of MLA format. Please refer to the information on MLA documentation that is found in the course or click on the link to Purdue OWL MLA information: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>).

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- **Main point supporting the thesis** – present the strongest reason in support of the thesis
- **Conclusion**

Hint: When writing to a wavering audience it is best to start with your weakest point and end with your strongest point. Also, when presenting the opposition, it is best to present their strongest points.

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Rogerian argument outline

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Due Feb 12 by 11pm **Points** 10 **Submitting** a file upload

Please note: *The Rogerian argument and the research paper are two entirely different arguments that you will be writing this semester. The Rogerian argument presents two sides of an issue and the common ground or compromise between the two sides. You will not take a stand on the issue.*

Please review the lecture notes on Rogerian argument before completing this assignment.

For this assignment you will complete a topic outline (phrases that indicate the main points and supporting points to be used in the research paper). Use Roman numerals for the main point and capital letters for the supporting points. A working thesis needs to be included in the outline.

Rogerian outline

I. Introduction

- A. A brief background of the topic
- B. Explore the common ground (briefly)
- C. state the issue question and set a neutral tone

II. Explain key supporting points on the issue

III. Explain key supporting points for the alternate side of the issue

IV. Explain a balanced view of the issue by reviewing valid points from the two sides

V. Conclusion

- A. Describe a balanced and concise summary of the main points that represent the sides of the issue
- B. Present a middle ground position
- C. Reprise the middle ground position and present a position that will benefit both sides.

As you are presenting a Rogerian argument you will need to have clear thesis placed in the conclusion. Remember, as this is a Rogerian argument, the thesis should not take a stand on the issue. You will need to present both sides of the issue and a section that shows how the two sides do have some common ground. The paper also will need to have a conclusion that wraps everything up for the reader and presents the common ground. Remember, for the actual paper you will need to have more than five paragraphs in the paper.

INTRODUCTION

- Lead-in sentences
("hook" strategies: a scenario or an example, a related current event in the news, a startling statistic, a provocative question or statement)
- Rhetorical context/brief synopsis of the discussion surrounding the issue

- Issue stated as an issue question to set neutral tone of inquiry and investigation

BODY

- Two or three paragraphs to examine key supporting points that support one prominent position on the issue
- Two or three paragraphs to examine supporting points that support an alternative position, opposing the above viewpoint
(The writer's use of transition/signal sentences, such as *On the other hand, critics argue . . .* ; or, *Despite these compelling arguments for . . . , many persons strongly oppose . . .* helps prepare readers for the writer's switch from examining one position to an opposing viewpoint.)

CONCLUSION

- Paragraph which presents a balanced and concise summation of the most compelling points representing different sides of the argument
- Closing paragraph which presents the writer's middle-ground position, drawing elements from each position examined earlier
(A common ground value appeal can lay the groundwork for a united front in approaching a resolution to the issue; e.g., *In the debate over legalization of physician-assisted suicide, we can all agree that we wish to make the process of dying more humane and comfortable for the individual person who is suffering from a terminal illness. Even so . . .* . Also, as illustrated, the writer may choose to use the inclusive first-person, plural point of view, we, to reinforce the collective spirit of his or her proposal.)

Example of Topic Outline Format

Several aspects must be considered in writing a topic outline.

Recall that all headings and subheadings must be words or phrases, not sentences.

Also, the wording within each division must be parallel.

Finally, as in any outline, remember that a division or subdivision cannot be divided into one part; therefore, if there is an "A" there must be a "B," and if there is a "1" there must be a "2."

I. Family Problems

A. Custodial: Non-custodial Conflicts

B. Extended Family

C. Adolescent's Age

II. Economic Problems

A. Child Support

B. Women's Job Training

C. Lower Standard of Living

D. Possible Relocation

1. Poorer Neighborhood

2. New School

III. Peer Problems

A. Loss of Friends

B. Relationships with Dates

Rogerian Argument

What is a Rogerian argument?

- ▶ Rogerian argument begins by assuming that a willing writer can find middle or common ground with a willing reader.
- ▶ Rogerian argument assumes that if reader and writer can both find common ground about a problem, they are more likely to find a solution to that problem.

Introduction in a Rogerian argument

- ▶ State the problem you hope to resolve.
- ▶ By presenting your issue as a problem you raise the possibility of positive change.
- ▶ Often opponents will want to solve the same problem.
- ▶ The writer presents the problem, typically pointing out how both writer and reader are affected by the problem.

Writing a successful thesis

- ▶ It is important that your thesis is a focused, single idea.
- ▶ What makes a Rogerian thesis different from a regular thesis is that it is presented only after the writer has conceded that opposite viewpoints exist and that they have some merit.
- ▶ It is important that the Rogerian thesis be delivered in neutral, non-adversarial language. The thesis should not be an attack on the opposition. It should present the writer's viewpoint without dismissing or demeaning the viewpoints of others.

Introduction in a Rogerian argument

- ▶ The introduction to your Rogerian essay requires four main parts– a hook, the problem, some background information about the problem, and your thesis statement
 - ▶ The hook is a sentence or two that draws the reader in and makes them interested in reading the rest of your essay. This can be a quote, surprising fact, rhetorical question, or any other attention grabber.
 - ▶ The problem is the issue that two sides disagree over, followed by the background information about that problem.
 - ▶ The thesis statement will let the reader know your proposed solution.

Body of a Rogerian argument

- ▶ The Rogerian essay focuses on trying to work out the main arguments of each side.
- ▶ The first body paragraph should focus on one side of the argument, and the second paragraph should focus on the other side.
 - ▶ In a longer paper you will have several paragraphs that discuss each side of the issue. Keep the two sides of the issue balanced.
- ▶ The third body paragraph should link the two opposing arguments together, trying to build on some common ground.

Summary of the opposing views

- ▶ As accurately and neutrally as possible, state the views of the people with whom you disagree.
- ▶ By doing this you show that you are capable of listening without judging and have given a fair hearing to people who think differently from you.

Finding common ground

- ▶ The need to find common ground is essential for the success of the Rogerian method. On what can you and your opponent agree?

Conclusion of a Rogerian argument

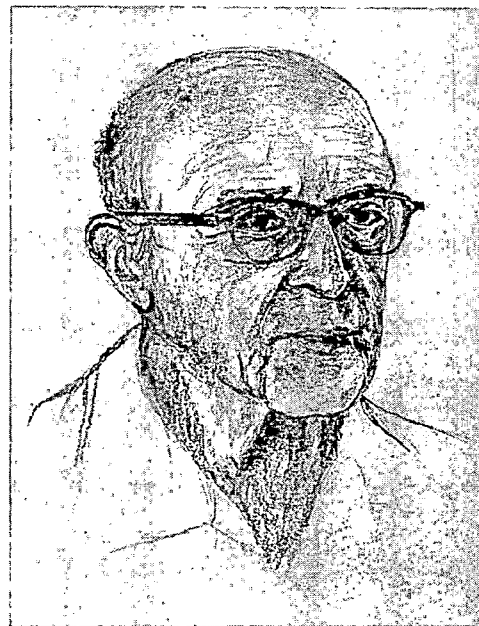
- ▶ The conclusion explains your proposed solution. This should transition smoothly from your final body paragraph.
- ▶ Your conclusion should also end with a closing statement about why you think this solution benefits both sides, giving your Rogerian essay a sense of closure.
- ▶ Craft a resolution that borrows the best from both sides and offers a negotiated settlement somewhere in the middle.



Rogerian Argument

When most of us think of argument, we think about winners of arguments and losers of arguments. Arguments, even sometimes academic arguments, can be strong and forceful. An Aristotelian or classical argument is a strong, "this is my assertion and here's why I am right" kind of argument. But that kind of argument isn't going to work in all situations. When your audience is a really difficult one in the sense that you know your audience isn't going to completely agree with your side of the issue, it can be a good idea to try to find a middle ground. The Rogerian argument finds that middle ground.

Based on the work of psychologist **Carl Rogers** (pictured on the right), a Rogerian argument focuses on finding a middle ground between the author and the audience. This type of argument can be extremely persuasive and can help you, as a writer, understand your own biases and how you might work to find common ground with others.



Here is a summary of the basic strategy for a Rogerian argument, and the infographic on the following page should be helpful as well.

1. In your essay, first, **introduce the problem**.
2. **Acknowledge the other side** before you present your side of the issue. This may take several paragraphs.
3. Next, you should carefully **present your side** of the issue in a way that does not dismiss the other side. This may also take several paragraphs.
4. You should then work to **bring the two sides together**. Help your audience see the benefits of the middle ground. Make your proposal for the middle ground here, and be sure to use an even, respectful tone. This should be a key focus of your essay and may take several paragraphs.
5. Finally, in your conclusion, **remind your audience of the balanced perspective** you have presented and make it clear how both sides benefit when they meet in the middle.

For a visual representation of this type of argument, check out the Rogerian infographic on the next page.

+ Attributions

Essay 2 - Rogerian Argument

Choose a topic on which you wish to develop a middle ground for compromise or discussion.

Try to choose a topic on which you have some ownership, something you have experienced and know enough about to write a Rogerian essay. In any case, choose a topic that you care about, so you will care about writing the essay, and the reader will be able to care about grading it.

After choosing your topic, develop background information. Remember, in a Rogerian argument, it is important to know the major sides to the issue accurately and without judgment. After you have gained a sufficient background on the topic, find common ground between the major sides. Where do they agree? What definitions, reasons, assumptions, or values do they all share? Next, develop claims that all sides could support based on these similarities.

Once you have accomplished these steps, it is time to write a Rogerian argument to persuade your readers toward a common ground.

Remember the structure for the Rogerian argument:

- Introduction
- Background
- Side A
- Side B
- Compromise Common Ground
- Conclusion

Your intro should describe the context of the argument and summarize the major views. Your body should describe the major sides of the issue accurately and fairly, without passing judgment. The body of your essay should also outline the shared values, assumptions, etc. that you identified. Your conclusion should present the claims you have identified that the parties can accept.

Outside sources are required for this essay, and you must cite them in proper MLA format. The information you use in this essay should be your own developed argument supported by two or more sources. Even if you interview or use information that you know came from someone else, you must cite that source on a separate works cited page to appear as last page of final draft. **Note: Please do not use Wikipedia as a source.**

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is to give you practice in writing an argument that is more cooperative than confrontational. The purpose of a Rogerian argument is to bring two opposing sides together and show them their common ground, developing claims, plans for actions, or decisions that they can all agree to. This style is very common in business negotiation and conflict mediation. The writer must be non-judgmental and present both sides fairly and accurately to avoid upsetting the parties involved.

Length: The essay needs to be at least 900 words, EXCLUDING the works cited page. Papers that do not meet the minimum length requirement will earn the grade of zero (0).

Sources: The essay needs to use at least three sources.

At least five (5) in-text citations are required. All documentation needs to be in MLA format. Pay careful attention to both in-text documentation and the works cited page. No more than 15% of the paper should be direct quotes.

All documentation must be in current 8th edition MLA format. Please refer to

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

(<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>) for information on how to cite your sources.

The paper needs to be written in **THIRD** person. You may use first or second person only if you are quoting a source that uses first or second person. When writing an argument, the use of first person indicates bias and should be avoided as it reduces your credibility as an author.

Evaluation According to Rubric & Rules:

Your essay will be evaluated on paragraph structure, content, clarity, and effective use of the elements of persuasion, as well as your ability to remain cooperative and non-judgmental. Avoid fallacies or other errors in logic and be sure to use pathos ethically—no one likes to feel manipulated. Remember to be creative and intriguing, vivid and detailed so your readers remain attentive and involved.

Arguments do not have to be boring. This argument needs to remain focused and non-confrontational. Think of the essay as a mediation between friends where you are the mediator trying to find an outcome that both of your friends can accept. The good part about this essay, though, is that you do not have to hang out with the parties afterward.

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A Rogerian argument shows the two main sides of an issue and then presents the common ground between those two sides. A Rogerian argument does not take a stand on the issue.

FORMAT FOR A ROGERIAN ARGUMENT

INTRODUCTION

- Lead-in sentences
("hook" strategies: a scenario or an example, a related current event in the news, a startling statistic, a provocative question or statement)
- Rhetorical context/brief synopsis of the discussion surrounding the issue
- Issue stated as an issue question to set neutral tone of inquiry and investigation

BODY- several paragraphs

- Two or three paragraphs to examine key supporting points that support one prominent position on the issue (Side one)
- Two or three paragraphs to examine supporting points that support an alternative position, opposing the above viewpoint (Side two)
(The writer's use of transition/◊signal sentences,◊ such as *On the other hand, critics argue . . .* ; or, *Despite these compelling arguments for . . . , many persons strongly oppose . . .* helps prepare readers for the writer's switch from examining one position to an opposing viewpoint.)

COMMON GROUND and CONCLUSION – two or more paragraphs

- Paragraph which presents a balanced and concise summation of the most compelling points representing different sides of the argument
- Closing paragraph which presents the writer's middle-ground position, drawing elements from each position examined earlier
(A common ground value appeal can lay the groundwork for a united front in approaching a resolution to the issue; e.g., *In the debate over legalization of physician-assisted suicide, we can all agree that we wish to make the process of dying more humane and comfortable for the individual person who is suffering from a terminal illness. Even so . . .* Also, as illustrated, the writer may choose to use the inclusive first-person, plural point of view, *we*, to reinforce the collective spirit of his or her proposal.)

HOW TO WRITE A ROGERIAN ARGUMENT (from

<http://tipsforresearchpapersandessays.blogspot.com/2008/06/how-to-write-rogerian-argument.html>)

In order for you to write/make a good **Rogerian argument** in your **essay**, it is important to keep in mind some important **outlines** and pointers as well keeping in mind your Rogerian

argument **topics and ideas**. While conventional wisdom might tell you to simply consider the common grounds between your proposition and the opposing argument, it is likewise crucial to get a formidable grasp of what you're really trying to argue and the opposing views to it. Here are a few tips for writing a Rogerian argument that you can use for writing your own examples, arguments that are not only convincing but also enable you to drive home your point with conviction.

1. Know your **audience** well. Or better yet, know the opposing argument(s) well. A knowledge of both your audience and the opposing point will help you a lot in formulating the arguments you want to push through in the end. But before that...
2. You should be able to determine the "**common ground**" between you and your audience. One way to do this is to outline your main points and compare it with the main points that you anticipate your audience, reader, or instructor to have. Remove opposing ideas from the list until you arrive at the *meeting points* between the two. But if you can't find common grounds among the main points you have listed...
3. Try to make an **extended list** of all the possible premises. The list should include the minor or sub-premises and its more minor points. For example, the major premise "poetry is an art" should further be divided into smaller premises or supporting ideas such as "poetry is an art because it requires mastery of words" or "poetry is an art because it requires the poet to go beyond immediate sensory experience" and other related supporting ideas.
4. Now that you know the proposition that you and your audience or reader share, use that *shared belief* to **start** your essay. That way, you'll be able to attract the attention of your audience without having to argue while introducing the topic. Be sure to use words that you know your audience can easily relate to and absorb. The task is to come into terms with your audience first and foremost.
5. Right after establishing the "common grounds," continue by slowly **integrating** your position. Remember to avoid engaging your audience into a disagreement yet. Simply try to make a brief introduction of your position in one or two short but concise sentences. After that...
6. You should now integrate your **supporting arguments** for your main position. This can be done by immediately placing your evidences after you have stated your main point. Take note that you should not write down supporting arguments that negate the position of your audience in an obvious way. For instance, avoid using "it is not true that poetry is not an art." Rather, it would be better for you to provide remarks which support your position that "poetry is an art." A good example is for you to write "poetry is like painting because the poet has to weave words together that are colorful" instead.

7. The next step is for you to point out the **obvious conflicting arguments** between you and your audience. After recognizing the conflict of arguments, persuade your audience that your position is more valid or more sound by telling your audience why their position or argument is weak. Point specifically to the arguments rebutting yours which have weak evidences or which lack supporting arguments. This is the part where you should expect your audience or your reader to either accept or reject your position. If your position is accepted, good job. If not...
8. Try to reiterate the "common grounds," but this time merge it with the **evidences** you have as to why your position is acceptable, or outweighs the other position.
9. Finally, conclude your essay, or argumentation, with a short summary of your position and a **brief reminder** of those "common grounds."

How to write a good Rogerian argument essentially depends on your **ability** to "locate and isolate" the beliefs that you share with your audience. You have to remember that you should *not* immediately introduce your position as this will disrupt your attempt to bridge your audience towards you and your arguments. The key is to identify those "common grounds" and capitalize on it to your best advantage without having to abandon your arguments altogether.



The Rogerian Argument

What is a Rogerian Argument?

The Rogerian form of argument was created by Carl Rogers, a psychologist, and is one of several models or philosophies. Rogers's theory of argument was that the arguer who wishes to convince another person should minimize any possibility of hostility to the argument. His goal was that the two sides should solve the problem together. Both arguers should qualify their arguments and understand the validity of the other side.

Those who are in favor of this kind of argument usually contrast it with the Toulmin, based on the Aristotelian, which is more confrontational and refutes the other side as unacceptable. The Rogerian model respects and accepts other truths and is particularly useful when the topic has the possibility of becoming emotional and/or hostile. The ultimate goal is to reach a compromise based on common ground between the sides.

How Do I Write a Rogerian Argument?

Most Rogerian arguments for college writing are organized in the following way:

1. The introduction should begin by catching the reader's interest. Then the writer immediately states the issue or problem and how it impacts both sides, using totally neutral language. The introductory paragraph/s should be comprehensive and long enough to cover the topic and both sides thoroughly.
2. In the next part, the writer describes the opposing side, still using neutral language in order not to misrepresent the opposition. The primary purpose of this section is to acknowledge the validity of the opposing side's support and evidence.
3. In this part, the writer finally has a chance to present his or her argument. However, he or she must again maintain a fair and balanced tone, dispassionately presenting his or her evidence and support. This section of the Rogerian is crucial to the acceptance of the writer's point of view as valid.



4. The final step in the Rogerian process is to find common ground between the opposing sides. The writer should consider alternative solutions on both sides of the problem in order to find a way to compromise. The writer's primary purpose in this part is to combine the positive ideas for solutions from each side and creatively convince the reader that each side will move toward the middle and meet in a beneficial compromise.

What does a Rogerian Argument Look Like?

A brief outline of a Rogerian argument might look like this:

1. Catch the reader's interest. Introduce the issue or problem. Mention the two sides, but do so without bias or influence on the writer's side.
2. Give the point of view of the opposing side, always in nonjudgmental language.
3. Address the writer's point of view and reasons for supporting this side.
4. Find common ground between the two sides and then reach a compromise.

Internet Resources

This **YouTube** video is a good and concise explanation of a Rogerian argument:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9knvRXU8zQ>

If you are having trouble choosing a topic for your Rogerian argument, try the **Essay Tips** website for a list of topics:

<http://tipsforresearchpapersandessays.blogspot.com/2008/11/rogerian-argument-topics.html>