**Argumentative Persuasive Research Paper**

**Task:** Argue your side effectively on a debatable topic of your choice. I prefer if you choose a topic that is of interest to you, or to your future academic studies, or to a career path you have chosen, so that what you write for my class can then be used as sample work when you move on.

Since it’s a debatable topic you have to take a stand/ position – are you pro or con? Then explore the opposition’s arguments and prove that opposition wrong.

If you cannot come up with a topic, I have some debate topics with articles (but these articles are old), so I will expect you to get more recent articles from the library databases: ProQuest, Opposing Viewpoints, and or Kanopy) to add to your store of articles to be used as sources for your research.

Here are the 8 topics you may choose (but I truly admire if you come up with a topic of your own), but if you cannot come up with your own topic you may use one from the suggested list of debates. This is to make it easier for you):

* Athletics benefits the academic environment
* Technology’s impact on human relationships
* Dress code impacts the learning environment
* Impact of helicopter parenting
* Oscars represent America’s diversity
* What’s better? Trade School or College
* Tuition free college benefits all
* Wage increase benefits do not justify benefits for all

As you can see the above topics are debatable. Some may say it is beneficial and some may say it is not beneficial. You have to take a stand on whatever topic you choose.

Then come up with a list of Question (after accessing prior knowledge), read the articles to see if your questions are answered, if go online and look up the databases to find articles.

There are two rough drafts needed for this, but if these rough drafts are in bullet points, I am ok with that too.

**Rough Draft 1: Argument**

You will choose a debatable topic as your subject. You may argue either side of the issue. Define the topic in terms of your argument. Describe in detail the issues related to your topic that supports your claim. Present evidence that supports your claim.

**Rough Draft #2: Refutation**

You will argue the same topic/side as you did in RD #1. Imagine you have presented your paper to a committee. What might the opposition say to counter your ideas? Your goal is to prove this opposition wrong. Write it in a way that refutes any opposition to the argument you made in Rough Draft #1.

**Final:** **Combined Argument and Refutation:** For the final, you will edit Rough Draft #1 and 2 that you wrote earlier. Combine the body paragraphs of these two Rough Drafts to form your final (6-8 pages total). Be sure to transition between these paragraphs. The final will have an entirely new intro/conclusion as well as a thesis.

Summarize at least 3 arguments that the opposition to your proposed solution might make. Will they argue with your data? Do they see the issue differently? Do they think another solution would be better? Using academic tone, deconstruct the argument. Show why their arguments are wrong. Show why their data are skewed. Show that their conclusions are inaccurate.

1. Your thesis should: a) give the topic, b) state the side you are on c) tell why you are right and your opposition is wrong. This thesis is NEW.

2. Include a new intro strategy/new introductory paragraph for the final. This intro is NEW (not the same as in your Rough Drafts).

3. Edit and then cut and paste the BODY PARAGRAPHS from Rough Draft 1 into the final.

4. Include a transitional paragraph to join these two halves together for your reader. This paragraph is NEW

5. Edit and then cut and paste the BODY PARAGRAPHS from Rough Draft 2 into the second half of the final. These paragraphs should prove your opposition wrong. Will the opposition argue with your data? Do they see the issue differently? Do they use argumentative fallacies? Using academic tone, deconstruct the argument. Show why their arguments are wrong. Show why their data are skewed. Show that their conclusions are inaccurate. Remember, you must **avoid argumentative fallacies when proving your side!**

6. Conclude by summing up the weakness (eg) of the opposition and reaffirming the strength of your side. Your readers should put down the paper and believe your side is correct. This conclusion should be NEW.

7. When you combine your sources for Rough Draft 1 and 2, you will have a minimum of **5 sources and a maximum of 10 sources.** The list of sources must be varied. However, you may not use: encyclopedias, Wikipedia, blogs, chatrooms, or discussion forums.

8. Following MLA citation guidelines, use **parenthetical in text citations and include a works cited** page in which you list the sources that you’ve used in your paper.

**Grading Rubric Final**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **5=Excellent** | **4=Good** | **3=Adequate** | **2=Inadequate** | **1=Incompetent** |
| **Thesis** | * Thesis is original (tells “how/why”) * Thesis is analytical * Thesis is specific * Thesis is clear * Follows directions | * Thesis is analytical (tells “how/why”) * Thesis is specific * Thesis is clear * Follows directions | * Thesis is somewhat analytical (attempts to offer “how/why” but may not be successful) * Thesis is general * Thesis is unclear * Follows directions | * Thesis is all summary; no analysis * Thesis is general * Thesis is unclear * Neglects directions; missing a required element | * + - Lacks a thesis.     - Or, thesis is off   topic  Neglects directions altogether |
| **Overall Organ-**  **Ization** | * Has a strong, appropriate intro strategy * Has a strong, appropriate concluding strategy * Contains an intro, body, and conclusion * Contains clear, logical and smooth transitions between paragraphs * Uses a logical order | * Has an appropriate intro strategy * Has an appropriate concluding strategy * Contains an intro, body, and conclusion * Contains clear, logical and smooth transitions between paragraphs * Uses a logical order | * Has an intro strategy and a concluding strategy * Contains an intro, body, and conclusion * Disorganized; may jump around * Neglects to transition between all paragraphs | * Neglects an intro strategy and/or a concluding strategy * May lack an intro, body, and conclusion * Disorganized; may jump around * Neglects to transition between all paragraphs | * Lacks organization |
| **Paragraph Structure** | * Uses topic sentences * Uses concluding sentences * Uses fitting description, summary, paraphrase, or quotes * Clearly and analytically ties that description, summary , paraphrase, or quotes back to thesis * Paragraphs are 6-12 sentences * Uses clear transitions between ideas | * Uses topic sentences * Uses concluding sentences * Uses description, summary, paraphrase, or quotes * Analytically ties that description, summary , paraphrase, or quotes back to thesis; may be unclear in places * Paragraphs are 6-12 sentences * Uses clear transitions between ideas | * Neglects some topic sentences * Neglects some concluding sentences * Uses description, summary, paraphrase, or quotes but they do not advance the argument * Little analysis or often neglects to tie information back to the thesis * May use too many quotes * Paragraphs are shorter or longer than 6-12 sentences * May lack some transitions | * Neglects some topic sentences * Neglects some concluding sentences * Neglects description, summary, paraphrase, or quote * No analysis or neglects to tie information back to the thesis * Paragraphs are short * Lacks transitions between ideas | * Off topic * Neglects assignment * Neglects most elements of paragraph structure |
| **Analysis** | * Contains original analysis * Ties description, summary, paraphrase or quotes to thesis in an original , analytical way * Contains SUFFICIENT analysis to prove thesis * Maintains thesis throughout essay * Proves its thesis * Uses appropriate references to essays to reinforce thesis * Introduces quotes * Uses MLA guidelines for format and citing sources | * Ties description, summary, paraphrase or quotes to thesis in an analytical way * Maintains thesis throughout essay * Proves its thesis * May lack analysis in places * Uses appropriate references to sources to reinforce thesis or explore counter-arguments. * Introduces quotes * Uses MLA guidelines for format and citing sources | * Only uses summary to prove the argument * May not fully prove thesis * Uses references or quotes that may not be appropriate to the argument * Lacks analysis * Quotes are not integrated fully; quotes are not introduced * Quotes may seem unrelated or hastily chosen. * May make some unsupported assertions * May rely some on argumentative fallacies | * Contains a confused discussion of the subject, whether in summary or analysis. * Neglects to address ideas introduced in the thesis * Presents few or no references to the text * May not be evident that the text was read thoroughly. * Relies solely on personal experience to prove thesis * May make many unsupported assertions * Fails to follow MLA format | * Presents ideas that are irrelevant. * Contains inappropriate development and analysis Contains simplistic, and/or incoherent analysis * Lacks clarity * Fails to include or integrate sources * May include plagiarism |
| **Syntax/**  **Diction/**  **Format** | * Uses academic tone * Uses precise language that expresses complex ideas * Uses sentence variety * Contains less than 3 errors of spelling, grammar or format * Follows directions on the topic sheet | * Mostly uses academic tone * Uses precise language that expresses complex ideas * Uses sentence variety * Contains less than 5 errors of spelling, grammar or format * Follows directions on the topic sheet | * Neglects academic tone * Sometimes uses slang * Contains clear sentences but they are simplistic or lacking variety * Uses wordy, imprecise or awkward diction * Contains numerous spelling, grammar or format errors * Makes some errors citing sources | * Neglects academic tone * Uses slang * Contains clear sentences but they are simplistic or lacking variety * Contains serious errors in punctuation, spelling, diction, and syntax. * Makes many errors when citing sources | * Contains serious problems with grammar * And/or DOES NOT FOLLOW MLA RULES FOR CITATION OF SOURCES * And/or neglects a works cited page. |

**Research Paper Length**

* • 2,500 words/6-8 pages   
    
  **Number of outside sources required**You must use a minimum of five sources in your research paper, and no more than ten sources total.
* These sources can be:
* • Books  
  • Articles from magazines, newspapers, and journals  
  • Reports from databases  
  • Reputable web sites  
  • Documentaries
* And remember - you must correctly cite all sources used.  Counter arguments and rebuttals must also be cited correctly in MLA 8.  
   **Format Style**
* You are required to submit your research paper in MLA 8 format, which means in-text citations must be used in the body of your paper, and a Works Cited list must appear at the end of your paper.
* **Timetable**
* Topic Description Due (brainstorm Paper) and Rough Draft 1 and 2
* Annotated Bibliography Due
* Source analysis worksheet (2)
* Literature review (2 pages)
* Rough Draft Due / Peer review/
* Outline
* FinalResearch Paper and Works Cited Due
* Reflection
* It is strongly advised that you speak to a reference librarian when you embark on your research paper. It is advised that you may use sources found through the College Library, such as subscription databases, the library catalog (books), and electronic book databases. When using open web or non-library sources, make sure they are reliable, authoritative, objective, current, and accurate.

**Rubric:**

Outline 10

Final Copy with Work Cited 100

Peer Review 30

Literature Review 40

Bibliography 30

Source analysis 20

Brainstorming papers (Bulleted RD included in this) 10

Reflection 10

Teacher comments:

Explanation of Grading:

Outline : In Alphanumerical Order

Final Copy with Work Cited

In MLA 8 format with the Works Cited on a separate page. Works Cited needs to be in Alphabetical order.

Rough Draft 1 and 2

These need not be typed but there has to be evidence of some kind of rough draft. See prompt for what goes in Rough Draft 1 and 2.

Peer Review

Use my Peer Review Sheet and this needs to be filled in detail. Short monosyllabic answers are discouraged.

Literature Review

A Literature Review is a brief objective review of your sources. Report of trends, relationships, and gaps between sources: 2 pages

Bibliography

MLA Citation and summary (Photocopies of first page of your sources stapled)

Source Analysis Worksheet:

Pls. use the worksheet provided

Brainstorming papers

Your brainstorming paper can be a lit or a cluster and should have your debatable Question. To which you seek an answer.

Reflection

Metacognitive thoughts on the process of research and/ or issues from your previous paper and how you tackled it.