

English 1301

Exercise 8: The Argumentative Essay

Instructions:

Find an article on the Internet that discusses one of the controversial issues below. Print it out and submit it with the rough draft and final copy of your essay. Write a short, five-to-seven paragraph essay supporting your position on the controversy you select.

- 1) photo-radar ticketing
- 2) TASP (or other required pre-enrollment college standardized testing)
- 3) penalties for college cheating
- 4) race as a factor in college admissions
- 5) censorship of the Internet in colleges and universities
- 6) public support for the homeless
- 7) preservation of endangered species
- 8) human stem cell research
- 9) euthanasia
- 10) U. S. role in the Middle East
- 11) payment of college athletes
- 12) federal regulation of the Internet
- 13) the U. S. Catholic Bishops' position on child abuse by priests
- 14) capital punishment
- 15) federal regulation of the "fast food industry"

An Outline for the Short Argumentative Essay

Introduction:

Write a brief introductory paragraph that begins with an interest device that will stimulate interest and reflection on the issue. Introduce the author and essay and identify your author's major point or position in the essay. Your thesis, placed last in the introduction, should state your position on the issue and whether or not you agree or disagree with the position the essay's author takes.

Body:

Part 1: Summarize the main stated claims supporting an author's position/thesis.

Part 2: Identify key assumptions/ implied claims/warrants that support the author's position/thesis.

Part 3: Refute or support the author's argument by explaining why you find the evidence/support/premises to be either true, or acceptable, or at least unquestioned.

Conclusion:

Rather than merely summarize your evaluation, close with a paragraph which identifies other possible strengths or weaknesses, other points worthy of reflection, or alternative support or other evidence, or a contemporary interpretation or assessment of the issue addressed in the original document.

Grading Criteria

Your essay will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- 1) Organization
- 2) Development
- 3) Use of the original text
- 4) Demonstrated mastery of the conventions of standard written English
- 5) Demonstrated familiarity with and understanding of the original document.

Submission

Turn in both your edited rough draft and the final printed/typed copy along with the printed copy of the entire article.. Papers submitted without the attached edited rough draft or the article will not be accepted.