

# ARGUMENT ESSAY: ARGUING TO CONVINC

## Purpose

The goal of the arguing to inquire essay is, as the textbook describes, to “pit our cases against the cases of others to win the assent of readers who will compare the various arguments and ask, Who makes the best case?” (207) In this essay, you make your case or your argument on an issue that you select. Once you’ve selected your issue, you will research scholarly sources to help you come to an earned conviction about that issue. You will then use those same sources to provide reasons and evidence for your claim.

You are trying to convince your audience to see the value of your stance on the issue. Your argument will be convincing because of your presentation of logical reasons and the use of acceptable evidence.

## Audience, Voice and Style

See page 225 for an explanation of the audience, voice and style of this paper. You should also review page 207-8 for more on the audience and pages 214-5 for more on voice and middle style.

## Tone

Your tone will be formal and professional. Your essay will be organized, revised for content, and edited for mechanics. Your essay must be formatted to APA guidelines.

## Documentation

A major component of this project is your ability to document sources using the APA documentation system. See the APA/CMS tab (pages 444-97) in *A Writer’s Reference* for APA information. You must provide:

- in-text citation of all quotes, ideas, and other information from your sources;
- attributive tags throughout to identify sources;
- documentation of sources used in a Reference List.

## Issue Selection

For this project, you will select an issue on which you will research and write. I must approve your issue. You must find a topic in which:

- you are interested;
- you are willing to work on for the next 8 weeks;
- provides sufficient credible, recent (2005 or later) sources for documentation;
- you can write convincing and persuasive essays.

The following issues CANNOT be used: abortion, cloning, death penalty, gun control, legalization of illegal drugs, illegal immigration, mercy killing (euthanasia or assisted suicide), and religion (including school prayer, etc.). I may add others to this list.

To have your topic approved, you will submit a Research Proposal. In this proposal, you will identify:

- a short description of your issue, explaining what you know about the issue;
- a brief explanation of why you selected each issue;
- any background or previous experience you have with each issue, including any previous research or writing you’ve done on it.

## Due Dates

Research Proposal  
October 6 (in-class)

Research Summary 1  
11 October

Research Summary 2  
18 October

Research Summary 3  
20 October

Argument Worksheet  
25 October

Rough Draft  
27 October

Final Draft  
1 November

English 1301  
Matt Turner  
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## Research Process

After I have approved your issue, you need to find scholarly sources to provide you understand your issue, determine your claim and reasons, and provide sufficient evidence for your reasons. You must find sources that address both sides of the issue so that you can address objections and provide refutations.

### Step 1: Find Sources

You will research scholarly databases and find six (6) appropriate sources which your selected issue. These sources must meet the following criteria:

- Sources must come from the online databases we discuss in class;
- Web sites, including Wikipedia, will be not accepted;
- Online encyclopedias will not be accepted;
- Sources must have been published after 2005.

Of the six sources, four must provide evidence to support your claim. The other two should be used to help you in identifying objections. Finding appropriate sources is fundamental to this assignment.

### Step 2: Create Research Summaries

As you find your six sources, you'll submit Research Summaries. Each Research Summary will cover two sources. Each citation will contain the following elements:

- Reference List entry for the source (the citation);
- A 100-125 word summary of the source (the annotation). In this summary, you should identify the major claim of the source, the significant reasons, and appropriate evidence. You are not analyzing or critiquing the source in this summary. Your summary should be neutral. You should use attributive tags.

When you turn in your Research Summaries, you must include printouts of your sources. I will not grade the research summaries without these printouts.

## Argument Process

Using these same sources, you'll determine your claim, reasons, and evidence for your argument.

### Step 1: Determine Argument Claims, Reasons

Identify the central claim that you are arguing about the issue. Using the worksheets, identify the major claims and reasons.

### Step 2: Compile Evidence

Assemble the evidence, from your sources, which support your reasons. This evidence includes direct quotes and summary from your sources. You must use attributive tags and appropriate APA citation for all quotes and summary. I expect to see specific details, not general statements.

### Step 3: Find Objections and Refutations

Use the provided worksheet to identify the objections and refutations you'll use to defend your reasons and evidence.

## Rough and Final Drafts

Using the Research Summaries and worksheets, you'll create a rough draft of your essay, and then revise that rough draft into a final draft. Use the rubric on the next page to insure that your essay meets the assignment requirements. When you submit your final draft, you'll include a copy of this rubric.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Points: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Evaluation rubric for Convince Essay<sup>21</sup></b>	<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Strong</b>		<b>Emerging</b>		<b>Undeveloped</b>	
Essay provides a persuasive argument of stance on issue (requirements x2)								
Essay clearly presents reasons to support claims (requirements x2)								
Essay clearly presents evidence to support reasons (requirements x2)								
Essay sufficiently references the required 6 sources to provide evidence (ideas x2)								
Essay conveys a scholarly tone that establishes credibility with the audience (word choice)								
Essay uses correct in-text format for quotations and citations (documentation)								
Essay accurately documents sources in a Reference List (documentation)								
Essay has an effective introduction (paragraphs and structure)								
Essay is effectively organized and easy to understand (organization x2)								
Essay provides well-organized and coherent body paragraphs (paragraphs and structure)								
Essay has an effective conclusion (paragraphs and structure)								
Essay is reasonably thorough and thought-out (critical thinking x2)								
Essay contains few sentence structure errors (sentence fluency x2)								
Essay contains few mechanical and grammar mistakes (mechanics and grammar x2)								

Comments: