

ARGUMENT ESSAY: ARGUING TO INQUIRE

Purpose

The goal of the arguing to inquire essay is, as the textbook describes, to explore a “conversation, an ongoing exchange of opinions about some controversial topic” (179). In this essay, you are exploring the different arguments concerning consumer culture and “how consumerism affects our sense of identity and quality of life” (312). In your reading and writing, you are looking to gain an understanding of the different claims made about our consumer culture and to eventually present that understanding to your audience.

For the body paragraphs of this essay, you are not stating your opinion or evaluating the arguments you find. I want you to focus on understanding the arguments, not on assessing them. In your concluding section, you’ll provide your own conviction or “earned opinion” (12) of these arguments. However, the overall goal of this paper is understanding and not evaluation.

Audience, Voice and Style

See page 194 for an explanation of the audience, voice and style of this paper.

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 MLA guidelines.

Sources

The sources for this paper will come from the section on “Consumer Society”, pages 309-370. You must include 4 total sources in your essay. Two of those must be sources we’ve discussed in class; the other two will come from the remaining readings in this section.

Readings covered in class—you must reference 2 of these sources:

Postrell 315-8
Twitchell 319-23
Kotlowitz 327-31
Twitchell 336-40
Heldman 341-5
Quart 346-50
Csikszentmihalyi 361-70

Readings not covered in class—you must reference 2 of these sources:

Brooks 324-6
Rosenbloom 332-3
Peck and Douthat 352-56
Schumaker 357-60

Documentation

A major component of this project is your ability to document sources using the MLA documentation system. You must provide:

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

Due Dates

Critique 1: 15 Sept
Critique 2: 22 Sept
Critique 3/4: 27 Sept
Rough draft: 29 Sept
Final draft: 4 Oct

English 1301
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Critique Process

In order to effectively inquire about this topic, you will use a structured critique approach. You'll use the Critique Structure, as outlined in the Critique Argument assignment sheet, to write a critique of each source. This will allow you to identify the major claims, reasons, and evidence for each source. In total, you'll have 4 critiques. In order to write these critiques, use the provided worksheets.

Step 1: Identify Argument Claims and Reasons

The first step is to identify the central argument that each source is making. Using the provided worksheet, you will identify the major claim and supporting reasons used in each source

Step 2: Identify Evidence

The next step is to assemble the evidence, from each source, that you will use to present their arguments. This evidence includes direct quotes from the source and paraphrasing of significant passages from the source.

Step 3: Determine Current State of Informed Opinion

These are the points of agreement across the 4 sources.

Step 4: Determine Live Issues

These are points of disagreement across the 4 sources.

Step 5: Turn Main Points Into Questions

Follow the steps on pages 196-7 on how to create questions that link the sources and will help organize your paper.

Organizational Process

Using the points on page 199 and the "Best Practices" box on page 200, we'll draft an outline for your paper in class. Your paper will have these major sections:

Introduction

You'll identify the topic, introduce the major questions that link the sources, and provide an overview to your essay.

Body

Using your sources, you'll cover the current state of informed opinion on the topic that connect the sources as well as the live issues that separate them.

Conclusion

You'll provide a brief summary followed by your own stated conviction about the points raised by the sources.

Rough and Final Drafts

Using the critiques, worksheets, and outline, 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. You will also submit your final draft to Turnitin.com. The class information for Turnitin.com is in the course policies document. I will not grade your final draft if you don't submit the rubric and if you don't submit it to Turnitin.com.

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Points: _____

Evaluation rubric for Inquire Essay²⁰	Excellent		Strong		Emerging		Undeveloped	
Essay clearly and appropriately identifies major questions, points of agreement, and points of disagreement across sources (requirements x2)								
Essay clearly and appropriately identifies claim and reasons in each source (requirements x2)								
Essay directly and sufficiently references sources to identify claims and reasons (requirements x2)								
Essay is reasonably thorough and thought-out (critical thinking x2)								
Essay uses correct in-text format for quotations and citations (documentation)								
Essay accurately documents sources in a Works Cited page (documentation)								
Essay has an effective introduction (paragraphs and structure)								
Essay provides well-organized and coherent body paragraphs (paragraphs and structure)								
Essay is effectively organized and easy to understand (organization x2)								
Essay has an effective conclusion (paragraphs and structure)								
Essay conveys a scholarly tone that is appropriate to the audience (word choice)								
Essay contains few sentence structure errors (sentence fluency x2)								
Essay contains few mechanical and grammar mistakes (mechanics and grammar x2)								

Comments: