

ARGUMENT ESSAY: ARGUING TO MEDIATE

Purpose

The goal of the arguing to mediate essay is, as the textbook describes, “to resolve conflict by thinking more critically about it” (272). Mediation requires that you “rise above the dispute,” (272), look for commonalities in the different sides rather than disagreements, and work towards a solution that each side can accept. Often, when we argue to convince and persuade, we are choosing one side and attempting to defeat the other. In this essay, you are seeing the value of each side and working towards a resolution or answer that shows that value. Instead of arguing to win, you are arguing to resolve.

The approach and organization of the arguing through mediation essay will follow those discussed in the text on page 273 and on 301-2.

Issue

For this project, you will use a class topic. That class topic is “Speech Codes on College Campuses.” Everyone in class will write on this topic using similar sources. However, you’ll each determine your own mediation on this topic.

Audience, Voice and Style

Your audience for this paper are both those that support speech codes and those that oppose speech codes. Your style will be formal and respectful, as you are trying to find a way to bridge the two groups together.

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.

Argument Process

You’ll write a critical evaluation of Kors and Grey, and another critical evaluation of Lukianoff and White. Using each set of paired sources, you’ll provide the following:

- Identify source title, author, publication information and probably audience
- Identify major claims, reasons and evidence for each article
- Identify the significant differences
- Identify the common values

You will therefore submit two critical evaluations overall. One will cover Kors and Grey; the other will cover Lukianoff and White.

Argument and Writing Process

We will follow the same basic process as we used in previous essays. I will provide four primary sources for this paper, although you can also find additional sources. You may find a source that offers a possible solution, or you may have to come up with your own based on your research. I anticipate that you’ll use around 4 sources for this essay, but the ultimately goal is to provide an acceptable and support argument.

We will follow the same basic process as the other argument essays.

Documentation

A major component of this project is your ability to document sources using the MLA documentation system. You will follow the same expectations for citing sources that we used with the arguing to inquire essay.

Due Dates

Source Critiques
6 December

Argument Worksheet
6 December (in-class)

Rough Draft
8 December

Final Draft
13 December

English 1301
Matt Turner
Fall 2011

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Points: _____

Evaluation rubric for Mediate Essay²⁴	Excellent		Strong		Emerging		Undeveloped	
Essay provides a supported resolution to the argument (requirements x2)								
Essay established ethos for the author (requirements x2)								
Essay demonstrates an understanding of values of each opposing argument (requirement x2)								
Essay established commonalities across each opposing argument to support resolution (requirement x2)								
Essay sufficiently references the required sources to support logos, ethos, and pathos (ideas x2)								
Essay conveys a scholarly tone that establishes credibility with the audience (word choice)								
Essay uses correct MLA 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 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: