Social Issue Argumentative Paper

Topic
- “Argumentation” with a research component (See Writing First: Paragraphs and Essays page 128, 232, and 245)
- Choose a social issue and take a side

Due Dates
Draft of Essay#3 due for peer review in-class – Tuesday, 04/24/18
Final Draft of Essay#3 due in-class – Thursday, 04/26/18
- Along with the writing process assignments

Specifications
- Essay of 1000-1250 words typed
- Typed, 12 font, 1 in. margins, MLA format (8th edition)
- Outline, Free-write, Brainstorm, Draft, Final Essay, Work Cited Page

Research Component
- Three (3) sources minimum, 7 sources maximum.
- The three (3) main sources must be cited a minimum of two times each, with parenthetical notes.
- Be sure the computer-generated sources have adequate information for the work cited entries (see ARC “How to Evaluate Information” and “ARC 8th Edition MLA Style Guide” handouts)

Organization
- Write a good introduction with hook and background (e.g. the history of the social issue).
- A good thesis statement at the end of the introduction is important. It must assert your position and lay out your main areas of support (such as your reasons and arguments for your position).
- You may have, after your introduction, a paragraph of clarification (defining words, clarifying the issues, continuing a general discussion of what the social issue is).
- The body of the paper will contain approximately three to four well-developed paragraphs.
- You will present major arguments for your side and against the other side. You must present counter arguments and deal with them.
- You will do a plethora of detail and examples supporting your arguments, with most of your writing integrated with paraphrases and quotations from your sources.
- Your essay may have a “plan of action” as part of your overall paper or as a focus toward closing.
- End with a thoughtful conclusion that effectively summarizes your major arguments and shows how your thesis has been proven, with final discussion of the significance.
- This is an argumentative essay written in third person (no “I” or “You”).
Plagiarism
- It is very important that your argumentative paper is your original work, written by you in your own voice.
- It is important that you accomplish each step of the required work and not change topics without permission.
- Bring all previous assignments each class meeting.
- In addition to being printed, your final draft of Essay#3 must be uploaded to the D2L Essay#3 Drop Box.

Grading
- Points possible -- 150 points
- Points Breakdown -- Outline (10 pts.), Free-write (10 pts.), Brainstorm (10 pts.), Rough Draft (10 pts.), Peer-Review (10 pts.), Essay (100 pts.), Work Cited Page (part of 100 pts. score)
- Grading rubric on the last page of this handout

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“Step-by-Step Guide: Writing an Argumentative Essay” from Writing First with Readings

1. Plan
   - Make sure your topic calls for an argument.
   - Find ideas to write about.
   - Decode on the position you will support, and write a thesis statement that clearly expresses this position.

2. Organizing
   - List the key points in support of your thesis.
   - Arrange your key supporting points in an effective order.
   - List evidence (facts, examples, and expert opinion) in support of each point.
   - List arguments against your position.
   - Make an outline that includes key supporting and opposing points.

3. Drafting
   - Draft your essay.

4. Testing and Revising
   - Test your essay, referring to the Testing an Argument Essay checklist on page 239.
   - Revise your essay, referring to the Self-Assessment Checklist on page 163 and the Strategies for Revising chart on page 162.

5. Editing and Proofreading
   - Edit your essay, referring to the Self Assessment Checklist on page 166.
   - Proofread your essay, and make sure it follows the proper MLA format.

I look forward to reading your essay! Good luck!
Social Issues (Topics)

1. More should be done to reduce childhood obesity -- for or against
2. California’s prison system must be changed -- for or against
3. Gun Control -- for
4. Gun Control -- against
5. Death penalty -- for
6. Death penalty -- against
7. Television causes violence
8. Endangered species should take priority -- for or against
9. Animals should not be used in testing -- for or against
10. We need stronger laws to protect against pollution -- for or against
11. Marijuana should be legalized -- for
12. Marijuana should be legalized -- against
13. More should be done to help the homeless -- for or against
14. Immigration reform -- for or against
15. More should be done to address global warming -- for or against
16. More should be done to close the gender wage gap -- for or against
17. Corporal Punishment – for or against
18. Physician Assisted Suicide – for or against
19. Transgender Inclusion – for or against
20. Violent Video Games lead to violence – for or against

- Any others? Create your own argumentative paper topic!