

Persuasive/Argumentative Writing

Morales English 120

We argue every day, whether we realize it or not. Argumentative writing is perhaps one of the most common forms of writing. We argue to ask for things, to convince people to do something, to make social or political points and to argue academic interpretations of books, theories, and films.

Advertisements, which all of us experience every day, are arguments, too, designed to convince us to buy a product.

This assignment requires that you write a well-organized argument that appeals to its audience's values and concerns; uses appropriate documented evidence; and makes effective use of rhetorical techniques.

Assignment Requirements

MLA FORMATTING; 750-1000 words

Well organized paragraphs; Clearly stated thesis/claim

3-4 valid/reliable sources (3 quotations or paraphrase used in essay); correct use of in-text citations and Works Cited list.

Logical reasoning with attention to ETHOS, PATHOS, and LOGOS

Carefully edited and proofread document

(Be prepared to share your argument with the class)

CHOOSE ONE:

1. Many high schools in Los Angeles are painfully underfunded and struggle to pay teachers, bills, and have difficulty purchasing new supplies. Often, arts programs are usually the first programs to be cut because they're seen as "extracurricular" or non-academic. Is this the right decision?

2. The health benefits of being a vegetarian have been well-proven over the past decade. Therefore, given what we know about diet, we should all become vegetarians. Is there a middle ground?

3. Parents should NEVER spank their children. They must find alternate ways to discipline their kids.

4. Couples should live together before they get married so they know what they're getting into.

5. Children under 16 should not own a smart phone.

6. Should the NFL teams support/allow players who wish to "take a knee"?

7. There is much debate amongst parents and educators as to when and even if sex education should be taught in our public schools. In high school? Middle school? Some experts recommend a simplified version of sex education should be taught as early as kindergarten. What do you say? (Remember to define "Sex ed" early on in your essay. <https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2013/05/07/at-what-age-should-sex-education-begin>)