**ENG095: Argumentative Essay Project**

**Purpose**: The purpose of an argumentative essay is to develop an arguable claim and provide researched evidence to support the claim.

**Audience**: Write to your peers or adults who may disagree with the position you are taking.

A quality argumentative essay consists of these characteristic features:

* Takes an explicit position
* Acknowledges what others have said about the topic
* Provides appropriate background information
* Clearly indicates why the topic matters
* Provides quality reasons and evidence for the position
* Attends to more than on point of view
* Uses an authoritative tone
* Appeals to readers’ values

Here are the assignment specifics:

* **Paper Length:** approximately 1000-1500 words (4-5 pages). **Include the word count in your paper**.
* **Type** the paper double-spaced, and include a title.
* Include a **Works Cited** list that includes the movie.
* **Participate in peer review.**
* **Revise** using your peer comments and other feedback you receive.
* **Submit** your final copy along with your WNB and drafts.

Staple your work in this order: Revised essay [with word count] on top, narrative scoring guide, narrative project rubric, and drafts with feedback. Tuck inside the cover of your WNB.

* + Follow MLA requirements and specific formatting instructions from me. **IF MLA CONVENTIONS ARE NOT FOLLOWED, YOUR PAPER WILL NOT EARN A GRADE HIGHER THAN A D.**

**Writer’s Notebook Requirements for Unit 4: Argumentative Essay**

WNB 4-1 Project Topic Ideas: With a small group, formulate and describe 2-3 possible topic ideas for each of the areas listed. This is a refinement of WNB 4-1. Even if you are pretty sure about your topic already, complete this exercise to solidify your decision. If you are still unsure, make your goal for the end of class today to have a topic selected.

1. Define problems at RHS. Think about defining a problem in one of these ways:

* a situation and the effects it has on people
* an agent (someone who has caused a problem), their goals, their actions, and the results
* a situation’s severity and duration
* goals and barriers/obstacles

2. Propose a solution to a local problem in the broader Peoria community.

3. Identify a critical problem in your future major area of study.

4. Trace the development of a long-term problem, its status and sources.

5. Evaluate proposed solutions to a problem.

WNB 4-2 Develop your ideas for your paper. In your WNB, write the following:

* State your topic.
* Write a**thesis statement** that makes a bold argumentative **claim**. Your thesis statement should be a brief statement that conveys the main idea of the point you will make about your issue. It should be:
  + ​**debatable**: The reader should be able to disagree with the statement.
  + **plausible**: Your thesis statement should be reasonable as well as convincing or persuasive on its own.
  + **clear**: Advance a claim that is easy to follow and state what the reader should believe or how they should act (without saying "you").
* List the main points in your argument (3 is about the right number).

WNB 4-3 Work with a partner or in a group of three and carry on a "devil's advocate" conversation to identify and consider opposing claims.

* ​Briefly *describe* your issue, the claim you are making, and your reasons.
* **Listen** while other group members provide reasonable counter arguments.
* **Take careful notes** about the opposing claims and the reasons supporting those claims.
* Switch roles and repeat.

Reflect on what you heard. Summarize the discussion in a paragraph. Will you change anything about your paper because of the discussion? Why or why not?

WNB 4-4 Outline your essay. Use the outline structure provided.

WNB 4-5 Summarize your essay using the 6 features of an argumentative essay. Write a **few sentences** about each of the features. Use specific details.

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