Essay 3

**Topic/Focus:** Documented Argument

**Length and Format:** 1250-1500 words, double-spaced, 12-pt Times New Roman; MLA works cited page (not included in total word count)

**Weight:** 200 points

**Final Draft Due Date:** See your course calendar/schedule

**Essay 4 Materials Due:** the schedule of activity due dates for Essay 4 materials is found in your course calendar. You are responsible for completing all assigned activities.

**WHAT YOU WILL DO**

**OBJECTIVES:**

- use argumentative strategies to support your point of view
- organize an essay that has a clear thesis, well-supported body, and convincing conclusion
- learn to research appropriate sources of information
- integrate research into your writing
- cite those sources properly in MLA format

**To Succeed in this Assignment You Must:**

- Participate fully in class activities, bring in prep work when you are asked.
- Complete each of your online lessons on persuasion.
- Read the “Arguing a position” and “Arguing” sections of the Norton Guide.

- Visit the writing center at least once; this is a requirement
Topic/Prompt

Your final essay in ENC 1101 is a documented argument essay. A documented argument is kind of like a research paper. You will argue your position on an issue and develop your credibility, use emotion, logic and evidence by referencing information you find via library research. You are trying to convince your audience that your position is valid. You are taking your audience through a journey from what is (the world as it is) to what could be (the world after your big idea is put into action). Your essay, which could ask us to take some kind of action in the conclusion, will be supported by outside evidence. That’s what makes it an documented essay. Your topic for this essay must be approved. Submitting a final essay based on an unapproved topic will mean an F on this essay.

Guidelines

• Be sure to give readers any background information they may need to fully understand the issue and your arguments.

• In your introduction, to establish where your claim fits into a larger context or conversation, give a background or history of the topic and discuss your purpose for arguing. Then state your claim.

• You must present a clear and specific thesis (Your claim/what you want to prove and why it matters/why it is important). You’ll have to decide on the best way/place to present your thesis too.

• You must develop a convincing argument to prove your thesis. This should include a clear explanation, claims that you back up with solid evidence (facts and opinions from qualified, reputable sources). You must also include a section devoted to discussing the opposing arguments.

• For this paper you’ll need a minimum of three sources but no more than five. Only ONE of your sources may come from the public Internet. If you use an Internet source in your essay, it must be a credible one. Your other three sources may come from electronic databases, print newspapers, news or science magazines, and books. Don’t use outside sources in excess. If you do not use the minimum number of sources, the highest grade you can earn on the paper is a C.

• General encyclopedias (Wikipedia, for instance) do not count as scholarly resources.

• You must cite your sources every time you use them, whether via direct quotations, paraphrases, or summaries. You must also include a Works Cited page that clearly follows the standards of MLA format. If you do not cite sources properly and/or do not include works cited page, you will earn a zero on this essay and will have to retake the course.

• Think about the tone you use because it will help you gain the reader’s confidence. You want to sound fair, informed, and credible. Find common ground between you and your audience whenever possible. Remember, your readers will “turn off” if you insult them.

• While you are stating your opinion, you are not stating your opinion as fact. Avoid biased, emotional language.

• Be sure that you define unfamiliar or vague terms.

• Any intentional or accidental instances of plagiarism will lead to a zero on the paper, an F in the course, and further disciplinary action.

Submitting Your Work

Submit an electronic copy of your essay and works cited page to Blackboard via the Essay Assignments section. Select Essay 4, which is a SafeAssign activity. Once you upload your work, it will become part of
SafeAssign’s database, protecting your intellectual property. This will also show how much outside material you reference in your essay and whether sources were cited properly.

**Writing Assignment Guidelines**

- Include your name, course and section number, assignment, and date in the upper left corner of the first page.
- Put your last name and the page number in the header of every page.
- All out-of-class work must be word-processed. Illegible handwritten or typed work will not be accepted.
- Work must be double-spaced (both typed and handwritten work) and use appropriate font (12-pt Times New Roman).
- The title should be centered on the top line of the first page.
- Essays must have one (1) inch margins.
- Include an MLA-formatted Works Cited page after your final page. The works cited page is not part of your word count.
- Proofread your assignment for grammatical and mechanical (spelling, capitalization, and punctuation) errors.
- Do not allow anyone else to type your papers for you.
- For more help, check out this [sample MLA paper](#) from the Purdue OWL.