

### **Essay 3: Argument**

For your third essay, you will write an argumentative essay of over 4 pages answering a question that is currently at issue. **You may choose any topic you'd like for this paper.**

In your essay, you'll not only have to discuss your own point of view but also provide supporting evidence for your "side." You must also engage with the strongest possible counterargument against your position.

This paper will require you to do outside research in order to support your points. You will need at least four credible sources for this paper, but most papers will require more sources. Any research – including that drawn from web sites – must be cited in your text and in an MLA formatted works cited page, which should appear at the end of your essay. This page does not count into your total word count.

Argumentative essays will be graded on the following:

#### **Development:**

Are points well supported with credible research? Does every paragraph make a single, focused point with appropriate examples? Does the author engage with the strongest possible counterargument?

#### **Organization and formatting:**

Is the essay written in a logical order? Is there appropriate space given to each point? Do paragraphs have clear topic sentences? Are transitions used throughout? Does the paper adhere to formatting guidelines, including correct use of MLA citation?

#### **Mechanics:**

Are sentences varied and correctly punctuated? Are there errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar that should have been caught through proofreading? Is the language and vocabulary of the piece appropriate for an academic audience?

#### **Fulfillment of assignment:**

Does the essay address a question at issue? Is the topic sufficiently narrow or broad to be covered in a 5-7 page essay? Does it draw upon class discussions and information in the book to make the best possible argument? Were pre-writing and in-class activities (including peer editing) taken advantage of to the fullest? Does the final draft show significant proof of revision?