

## Persuasive/Point of View Essay

### [CONTEXTUALIZATION]

Our second essay in this class will be a standard persuasive essay. For this next assignment you will be writing about one topic of your choice in order to demonstrate that you can construct a persuasive argument and that your topic is important. You might write about the importance of a social or cultural event; you might write about a current event; or you might write about something that is personally important to you. The point of this essay is to get your reader to see something from your point of view. You could write about a topic that has two opposing sides or a topic that is multidimensional.

### [PURPOSE]

This assignment is designed to help you build on the contextualization and organization skills you worked on in writing your first assignment. The differences here are that you are not writing about yourself (primarily) and you are not writing a narrative—you are writing about a specific subject. In addition, you will be entering an ongoing conversation about your topic with other interested parties (remember Burke's parlor metaphor). That means you will be incorporating outside sources in various ways.

### [RHETORICAL SITUATION]

You will need to establish several things in this assignment for it to work:

- Defining the topic you are investigating (giving examples, interpreting, etc.)
- Historicizing/contextualizing your topic
- Discriminating between needs to be addressed in your topic and what doesn't and what is persuasive and what isn't
- Analyzing important aspects such as others' opinions and their specific points

For your purpose you should consider:

- Why it is important for readers to consider your topic
- What are the important smaller claims you have to make to get your point across
- You will need to represent different and competing sides to your topic

You should use this list to get started thinking about your projects. You should not use it as a way to structure your essay.

### [LOGISTICS]

This essay needs to be a minimum of 3 pages, in 12 pt. font/Times New Roman, and in MLA format. You do not need to have a correct Works Cited page for this paper if you use outside sources, but you will need to cite your references for me. First drafts are DUE Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Second drafts are DUE Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

### [REMINDERS]

- You are not just simply making claims in this essay. You are entering into an ongoing conversation about your topic.
- To do so you need to synthesize both what people are saying about your topic and what the important angles are for your point of view.
- Last, you will be heavily downgraded for making large global unsubstantiated claims and absolute statements.

### [EVALUATION]

See attached rubric for grading evaluation.