

PROPOSAL ARGUMENT RESEARCH PAPER

Proposal arguments make the case that someone should do something. Proposals can also argue that something should *not* be done or that people should stop doing something. For instance, a writer may propose an argument in favor of Congress passing stricter federal gun laws, or a writer may propose an argument urging people to stop texting while driving. Good proposal arguments include plenty of solid factual evidence (**logos**), but also include **ethos** and **pathos appeals**. For more information about writing proposal arguments, you should consult chapter 16 of your *S&S Handbook*.

The purpose of this assignment is to compose an 8-10 page proposal argument essay in which you convince your readers to take an action or not take an action on an issue of your choice. You should include evidence (e.g. facts, statistics, and expert opinion) from at least eight (8) reputable sources; at least half of these sources *must be* obtained through SCC's Cettei Memorial Library databases.

THE WRITING PROCESS

Follow the steps in the writing process to write this essay:

1. Use a **prewriting technique** such as brainstorming, freewriting, or questioning to generate a list of controversial topics that you would like to write about. **Please note, you cannot select the same topic for this essay that you wrote about for a previous assignment in this course.*
2. Select one topic from your list that is most interesting to you.
3. Narrow your topic into a manageable **thesis**. For instance, if one of the topics you generated from brainstorming is "*gun control*," you will need to narrow that topic by considering what position you want to argue and what action you want your readers to take. An example of a narrowed thesis may be: "*Voters should elect politicians who will work to pass a federal ban on assault rifles.*" Try to be ambitious and original when writing your thesis.
4. Use the **SCC Cettei Memorial Library databases** to research articles on your topic. (The link to the Cettei Memorial Library can be found on SCC's homepage.) The most useful databases for this assignment will be "**ProQuest**," "**The Points of View Reference Center**," and "**Newspaper Source Plus**," but you can feel free to use any of the databases you like best. Altogether, you want to locate at least ten (10) articles from reputable sources (e.g. major newspapers like *The New York Times* and major news magazines like *Time*). At least five (5) of your sources must be obtained through the library's databases, but you may also include other sources, such as reputable websites, that you locate through a general Internet search as well.
5. Read your source articles carefully and take notes as you read. Create an **annotated bibliography** that contains correct citation information (in MLA format) for at least ten (10) of the sources you have located. **When complete, you will upload your annotated bibliography to Canvas for a grade; see Canvas for details.** **Note, the minimum source requirement for your essay is eight (8) sources, so you may have more sources in your annotated bibliography than in the final draft of your essay.*
6. **Outline** your proposal argument to include an introductory paragraph (in which you state your thesis), at least three body paragraphs (in which you support your thesis with evidence from your sources), and a concluding paragraph. Refer to the "Frame for a Proposal or Solution Essay" on page 189 of your *S&S Handbook* for an example of how you can organize your own essay. **Refer to Canvas for submission instructions and the due date for your outline.**

NOTE: IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO READ THESE ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY, MORE THAN ONCE, TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE ASSIGNMENT. FAILURE TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS WILL RESULT IN A LOW GRADE!

7. Write your **first draft** based upon your outline. Refer to the “Sentence and Paragraph Guides” on page 190 of your *S&S Handbook* for sentence starters. See also the student essays on pages 179-185 and 190-194 of your *S&S Handbook* for examples of this type of writing. You will want to include some summarized and paraphrased material from your sources in your essay, but please note that all information from an outside source—that is, not from your own mind or is common knowledge—must be properly cited in your essay using **parenthetical citation** and also included on a **Works Cited page**. Refer to chapter 18 in your *S&S Handbook* for information on how to quote, paraphrase, and summarize source material.
8. Take some time away from your first draft (at least a day) and then read it over with “fresh eyes.” Think of ways that you can **revise** your writing to make it more clear and convincing. Consider whether you need to include any additional information to support your argument.
9. **Upload a working draft of your essay to Canvas** so you can participate in **peer review**. Carefully consider the feedback you get from your classmates. In addition, outside of Canvas, it may be helpful to show your essay to a person who has an opposite opinion to yours to find out if your argument is strong enough to convince him or her to agree with you. Make additional revisions based on the feedback you receive.
10. After you have made your revisions, read your essay over several times to **proofread** for mistakes in grammar, word choice, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Be warned: An essay that was clearly not carefully proofread/edited will receive a low or failing grade! **See Canvas for submission instructions for your final draft.**

AUDIENCE & TONE

You are writing for people who *may* or *may not* be familiar with your topic, so you will want to provide some background information. You may also want to assume that your readers have an opposite opinion to yours, so you will want to write to convince them to agree with you. The tone of your essay should be professional/formal and you should write in the third-person (people, Americans, they, etc.) point-of-view.

ESSAY FORMAT

Your essay must be MLA-formatted (consult chapter 25 of your *S&S Handbook* for more information on MLA style) and must include a Works Cited page with citations that match the references within your essay. A minimum of eight (8) sources must be included in your essay and on your Works Cited page. Your essay should also include a creative, attention-grabbing title. The final draft of your essay should be no less than eight (8) pages and 1,500 words.

Due date for annotated bibliography: _____

Due date for outline: _____

Due date for rough draft (peer-review): _____

Due date for final draft: _____

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