



STUDYDADDY

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Workshop_____

Due Date_____

Debate Essay

Your task with this paper is to explore a single topic from two different sides, presenting claims for and against a proposed action. You must present a fair and balanced argument where neither side appears to win the debate. This essay should be approximately 6 pages total (three pages for each essay).

The Process:

You should choose a topic that is currently up for debate that has valid arguments for it and valid arguments against it. Topic selection is the most important part of this essay. You must debate whether a proposed action should be carried out. Work for a clear “should” question that can be used as the center for the essay. Develop three claims for each side and begin to think about what kind of evidence you will need to find.

Requirements:

You will be writing two separate papers, one that argues in favor of a proposed action and one that argues against a proposed action. Present a summary of your ideas in a clear thesis that also forecasts the structure of the essay to follow.

Your essay should include three major claims for each side. Each claim should be supported with significant evidence and examples that prove your claim is true. This support could come from research, examples you generate, or logical reasoning.

Your introduction should convey the background of the argument and any other important information the reader needs to know to understand what will happen. The conclusion should both sum up your arguments and make a persuasive case that you have convincingly proven your argument.

Research:

You are required to use research for this paper. You should have no more than two open web sources and no more than three sources total. All sources should be properly documented using MLA or APA citation in the text and in a works cited page that appears at the end of your essay. Research should be integrated into your paper and it should be in support of your arguments.

In addition to the overall focus, organization, development, and use of language, this paper will be graded on your presentation of an even, balanced debate, the clarity of your claims, and the development used in support of your arguments.

Samm’s Forbidden Topics List:

Because these topics are so frequently used and because they do not engender critical thought, they are off limits for this assignment: legalizing marijuana, abortion, the death penalty, gun control, physician-assisted suicide, lowering the drinking age, cell phone use (including texting) while driving, national health care.

	1	2	3	4	5
Focus	Paper provides a summary of the article. Paper does not have an identifiable thesis. Paragraphs have no consistent central point or stray from that point.	Thesis does not focus on main points. Paragraphs primarily summarize without clear and consistent focus in paragraphs.	Thesis statements focus on something other than proposed action. Much of the evidence is summarized without argumentation. Paragraphs are unfocused or lack topic sentences.	Clear thesis statements mirror the body of the essay and clearly convey main points. Some information in paragraphs is not focused on topic sentences. Some topic sentences are not clear.	Clear thesis statements mirror the body of the essay and clearly convey main points. Information in body paragraphs focuses on topic sentences.
Organization	There is no clear thesis. Paragraphs have several points. Consistent connections are very hard to discover.	A central idea is presented for each essay. Paragraphs do not focus on that central idea. Multiple ideas appear in paragraphs.	Thesis statements are presented and topic sentences are present. Connections between ideas or between are consistently hard to see.	Clear thesis statements are presented with topic sentences that clearly connect. Some connections between paragraphs or ideas are not clearly enunciated	Thesis statements forecast structure for the essay. Paragraphs move in logical order. Topic sentences set the main point for each paragraph.
Development	Development of both evidence and argumentation of the text are severely lacking.	Development of either evidence or argumentation is severely lacking.	Development in both evidence and argumentation are moderate.	Development in either the evidence or argumentation of the text is moderate.	Ample and copious evidence is provided. Significant argumentation is used in support of the claims.
Use of Language	Significant problems in syntax or grammar occur regularly. Academic tone is not observed.	Significant problems in syntax or grammar occur occasionally. Academic tone is largely absent.	Minor problems in syntax or grammar occur regularly. Academic tone is only maintained in parts of the essay.	Minor problems in syntax or grammar occur occasionally. Academic tone is maintained through most of the essay.	Paper is free of grammar and syntax errors. Appropriate academic tone is maintained throughout.
Paper Goals	Only one side of the argument is presented. Support is severely underdeveloped for all claims. Claims aren't present or are very difficult to find.	A clear and strong bias is clear in favor of one side. Support is missing from claims. Claims are very hard to see and hard to relate to topic sentences.	One side clearly is stronger in argumentation or evidence. All claims would benefit from development in support. Few claims are clear and clearly relate to topic sentence.	Essays are largely balanced. Ample evidence is used in support of most claims. Most claims are clear and clearly relate to topic sentence.	Essays present a completely balanced argument. Ample evidence is used in support of each claim. All claims are clear and clearly relate to topic sentence.



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