English 102 Professor Givhan

Essay # 2 Constructing Our Own Arguments

Write a PERSUASIVE **5-7** page essay that includes research which supports and expands upon your stance. You may also include arguments made by the opposition, which your essay counters. Your essay must include research, but it must also be more than a collection of glued-together quotations and paraphrases. It must flow as a unified essay, and it must be based on your own knowledge and experiences. If you have more than two quotations or paraphrases per page, you may be relying too much on other people's words and ideas. You should use APA format and in-text citations, and include both an abstract and an APA Reference Page, which do NOT count toward your total page count.

Thesis/outline due to discussion board: June 23

Rough draft due to discussion board: July 4

Final draft due to “Assignments”: July 11

### Please be creative with your essay.



# Topic:

What decisions have you made that have had a positive influence on your life? What mistakes have you made that others can learn from? What opinions have you earned through experience, thought and study? This assignment lets you share your wisdom by persuading others to take action or to value your beliefs. In other words, your goal is to persuade. There are three basic approaches to persuasion: appeals to logic, appeals to ethics, and appeals to emotions. Some subjects will use only one; others will use all three. Consider carefully which will be most effective given your purpose and your audience.

Option 1:

Persuade the class (or another specified audience) to do something or not to do something: to learn CPR, to take up calligraphy, to give blood, to join a gym, to adopt a kitten from the animal shelter, get married, etc. Your goal is to convince as many people as possible to do as you do. (Warning: You must practice what you preach.)

Option 2:

Make your readers adopt your opinion on a controversial issue. Your goal is not to out-argue an opponent; it is to convince readers that your opinion is well informed and worth considering. You probably won’t sway readers who are hard headed and dogmatic, but you can reach those who are open-minded, as long as you give reasons that are logical and/or emotionally convincing. (Hint: Most readers will have heard the standard pro/con arguments; for a good grade, you must come up with ideas they haven’t considered.)

Note that abortion is a prohibited topic. You will NOT receive credit if you argue anything to do with abortion. Please be wary of using controversial topics such as homosexuality, or religiously based material.



# Grading Standards (important, please read carefully)

A:

The essay provides information and perspectives that will get and hold readers’ attention

and respect. The targeted audience will be persuaded to engage in a specific activity or will seriously consider adopting the opinion presented by the writer. Convincing, credible research is used to support the writer's stance, but does not overpower the writer's contribution. Counterarguments are successfully refuted or discussed. The essay is effectively organized and research is smoothly incorporated. The language may be notable for its distinctive (but appropriate) style, and there is interesting sentence variation. Distracting mechanical errors are at a minimum, and APA format is followed correctly. Rough-draft comments and highlighted photocopies of quotations and paraphrases are turned in.

B:

The essay will cause the reader to consider engaging in a specific activity or adopting the writer's opinion. Credible research is used to support the writer's stance, but does not overpower the writer's contribution. Counterarguments are discussed. The organization is logical and the language is clear. Distracting mechanical errors are at a minimum, and APA format is followed correctly. Rough-draft comments and highlighted photocopies of quotations and paraphrases are turned in. Errors and/or problems with APA format may lower the grade to a B.

C:

The essay provides some arguments and support for the thesis, and the content is minimally persuasive. Research is included, but may not be sufficiently strong or come from credible sources. Counterarguments may not be discussed. The organization is logical (although there may be one or two weak transitions) and the language is clear. Errors do not distract or interfere with comprehension. There may be some problems with APA format. Rough-draft comments and highlighted photocopies of quotations and paraphrases are turned in. Errors, problems with APA format, and/or unintentional plagiarism may lower the grade to a C. Essay meets the minimum page requirements (at least 5 pages).

D:

The essay does not provide enough convincing material to influence readers. Research is included, but may poorly chosen or lack credibility. Counterarguments may not be discussed. Organization is weak, and/or transitions are missing. The language may be confusing or awkward. There may be too many mechanical errors, problems with APA format, and/or unintentional plagiarism. Rough-draft comments and highlighted photocopies of quotations and paraphrases are turned in. Errors and/or or problems with APA format may lower the grade to a D.

F:

The essay may not make a serious attempt to persuade, and/or violates the major principles of composition. There may be too many errors and/or problems with APA format. Highlighted photocopies of quotations and/or rough draft comments may not be turned in. The essay may contain plagiarism. The essay does not meet the minimum page requirements (less than 5 pages)