

English III: American Literature

Name: _____

Assignment 1: Persuasive Essay

OBJECTIVE

Using a persuasive approach, explore contemporary topics and develop a personal analysis of the selected subject.

TOPIC POSSIBILITIES (BROAD SUBJECTS)

- high schools need stronger restrictions against situations of bullying
- high schools should always maintain the tradition of pep rallies
- high schools should main more/less restrictive dress codes
- professional athletes should be held accountable in a stricter fashion for their use of performance enhancement drugs

DUE DATES

September 13, Tuesday	Declare Topic Choice
September 15, Thursday, due end of class	Tentative Thesis
September 16, Friday, due end of class	Introduction Paragraph
September 21, Wednesday, due start of class	Final paper due

1. Create an interesting, intricate, descriptive introduction which clearly shows the focus of your essay and leads the reader into subsequent paragraphs.
2. Be sure each new paragraph includes a strong transitional phrase. Paragraphs are fully developed with clear purpose. All body paragraphs must have:
 - strong topic sentences
 - at least one quote or paraphrase from secondary evidence
 - use signal phrases *before* you quote; provide in-text notations *after* you quote
 - be decisive in your subjective opinions
 - use five or more sentences per paragraph
3. Follow standard MLA guidelines: (visit: www.davidglensmith.com/Huntsville/PDFs/changesMLA09.pdf)
 - heading/header
 - margins
 - format ¶s/indent
 - double space
 - fonts
4. Do not talk to the audience. Do not use forms of the pronoun “you.”
5. Punctuation and spelling are used correctly.
6. Utilize correct grammar and sentence structures.
7. Works Cited page is provided.
8. **Essay Length: five full paragraphs.**
9. See attached rubric for additional graded items.

Elementary and secondary schools around the country are beginning to actively address the problem of bullies. In your opinion, is bullying an issue that should be addressed by schools or left to parents? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

Today, there are more and more reality shows on television. Do these shows make good television? Why or why not? Explain your answer using specific reasons and examples.

<https://sites.google.com/a/pgcps.org/mrs-carson/dashboard/1a/2nd-quarter-project--persuasive-research-paper/list-of-persuasive-topics>

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LENGTH

five paragraphs > body paragraphs must have only one quote each from reliable source

double spaced, 12-point font: Times New Roman;

follow the format outlined in *The Bedford Guide for College Writers*, pp. 727-734.

SOURCES

The group must use at least five sources (one resource for each member). None of the material can come from the Internet. All material must be from periodicals, from books, or from online databases provided by the college.

- Sources must not be more than five years old.
- For information from sources, use in-text citations in the paper to indicate where you found the information, and you must have a list of works cited at the end of your paper for each source used.
- Include with your in-text citation signal phrases; see *Bedford* for examples on pages 695-696.
- For the works cited list, see *Bedford*, "Citing Sources in MLA Style," beginning page 709.
- The paper may use more than five sources.

OBJECTIVES / CHECKLIST

1. Use secondary evidence from a database essay to show secondary opinion.
Visit **WCJC.edu**: select “**Library**” link > **Databases-Library Proxy Server** >
Enter appropriate fields to access school databases >
Newspaper & Current Topics> CQ Researcher or SIRS
Incorporate proper signal phrases when quoting selections from the article.
2. Follow standard MLA guidelines:
 - heading/header
 - margins
 - Format ¶s/indent
 - double space
 - fonts
4. Create an interesting, intricate, descriptive introduction which clearly shows the focus of your essay and leads the reader into subsequent paragraphs.
5. Be sure each new paragraph includes a strong transitional phrase.
Paragraphs are fully developed with clear purpose. All body paragraphs must have:
 - strong topic sentences
 - at least one quote or paraphrase from secondary evidence
 - use signal phrases *before* you quote; provide in-text notations *after* you quote
 - be decisive in your subjective opinions
 - colloquial language is *not* permitted
 - use five or more sentences
6. Despite the fact it is a persuasion piece, avoid use of first person, singular.
Evidence is more important than your group’s personal identity.
Do not talk to the audience.
7. Punctuation and spelling are used correctly.
8. Utilize correct grammar and sentence structures.
9. Works Cited page is provided and set-up correctly.
10. **Essay Length: 700 words (roughly 300 words per page).**
Keep in mind this essay is more formal than the previous exercises.