

Essay Assignments

English 17000

Spring 2012

Essay #3: Position Paper Based on “The Reader”

Rationale: To be a good researcher, you must be able to analyze information, synthesize it, and then offer a claim which you then support with references to the information. This assignment is intended to give you an opportunity to practice this skill.

Directions for writing a Position Paper (i.e., a Claim Essay) based on essays from “The Reader”:

I. First steps

- Scan the seven “ Issue Areas” in *Perspectives on Argument* (Family and Personal Relationships; Modern Technology; Education and School; Race, Culture and Identity; Environment; Immigration; and War and Peace;
- Read “The Rhetorical Situation” in each issue area;
- Examine the sixteen issue questions;
- Select the one issue (question) that interests you the most;
- Scan the essays related to that issue.
- **(Remember: You did much of this work when you completed Homework Exercise #3: Finding Compelling Issues for Future Argument Papers.)**

II. Write a claim that you could support with evidence from the essays in “The Reader.”

III. Once you know what claim you want to make and you have an idea of how you’ll support it, make a tentative outline of points you’ll cover. List the three to five points to which you’ll refer as your support your claim. These points will guide your note taking.

IV. Read the essays. Take notes. Include on your notes the source, a heading (from the tentative outline), the note itself, and a comment on the note (a statement about how you intend to use it in your essay).

V. Arrange your notes in the order of the points on your tentative outline. Add any levels to the outline that you have discovered as you read.

VI. Write your draft and bring it with you to your scheduled conference time.

VII. Revise your draft and take a copy to The Writing Center to have a tutor read it and make suggestions.

Length of paper: 950-1200 words

Assigned: Friday, February 24, 2012

Worksheet #1 Due: Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Outline Due: Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Draft Due: During your conference time

Writing Center Appointment: Schedule this for a day after your conference appointment.

Final Copy Due: Friday, March 23, 2012

Follow MLA style.