

Persuasive Essay (“Final Call to Action”)
English 11 (N. Ristau)
SOL: 11.6A-F (Rough Draft); 11.6G-H (Final Copy)

Purpose: Persuasive writing, also known as the argument essay, utilizes logic and reason to show that one idea is more legitimate than another idea. It attempts to persuade a reader to adopt a certain point of view or to take a particular action. The argument must always use sound reasoning and solid evidence by stating facts, giving logical reasons, using examples, and quoting experts.

Deadlines & Point Totals:

1. Rough Draft is due on Friday, February 11, 2022 (50 points).
2. Final Copy is due on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 (100 points).

Writing Situation: Choose **another** one of the Persuasive prompts on your *End-of-Course Writing Prompts* sheet that you would like to rally for (pro) or to rally against (con). No matter which side you choose to rally for or against, **YOU MUST ALSO ADDRESS THE COUNTERARGUMENT**. Follow the directions listed below to guide you in the development of your essay.

Writing Convention Standards

For this task, students will write a persuasive essay that will:

- a. have a clear thesis statement (topic sentence) that expresses knowledgeable judgment.
- b. differentiate between fact and opinion.
- c. present detailed evidence, examples, and reasoning to support arguments.
- d. present support in an effective order.
- e. anticipate and answer reader concerns and counterarguments.
- f. support the judgment with devices such as analogies, comparisons, and quotations.
- g. be organized with a well-crafted lead/introduction, body paragraphs (3), and an effective conclusion.
- h. demonstrate appropriate sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

Essay Set-Up

Introduction:

*Immediately engage the reader (**attention getter**)
~get the reader “in the ballpark”

*Strong & complete **thesis statement (can be anywhere in the first paragraph)**

*Establish **context** (topic of essay)
~usually 2-3 sentences narrowing down to the point of the paper
~cite your source with title and/or author

Body: (minimum of three paragraphs)

*Begin paragraphs with a clear, concise **topic sentence**

- ~Use **concrete details (CD)**
- ~these include facts or quotes
- ~cite sources when necessary (simplified: such as author's last name & pg #)
- ~Create insightful **commentary** to support concrete details (2-3 comments per CD)
- ~shoot for at least 2 CD per paragraph (+ commentary)

***Address a counterargument**

- ~include a rebuttal defending your thesis (which includes CD and commentary)

Conclusion:

- *Transition into summary of key points
 - ~Restate thesis (say it another way!)
 - ~**Refer back to the attention getter and tie things up**
- *Answer "So what?"
 - ~Leave the reader feeling persuaded or at least challenged
 - ~This personal comment can include a universal observation (a prediction) or a call to action (a recommendation).

NOTE: You need to adhere to the following requirements as you put your essay together:

1. You may use "I" in your essay, as this is an essay in which you are providing your call to action or recommendation(s).
2. Limit the use of contractions ("didn't" for "did not") UNLESS part of a direct quotation.
3. Watch your subject-verb agreement; this must agree in number.
4. Watch your pronoun-antecedent (noun being referred to) agreement; this must agree in gender and number.
5. Be sure to provide a creative title for your essay. (Hook your reader.)
6. Each paragraph needs to have a minimum of four-five sentences, complete with proper capitalization and punctuation. If you can, try for a total of six to seven sentences per paragraph.
7. Watch your use of loaded language, bias, and stereotyping when you are writing your Conclusion; draw your conclusion and opinion based upon the facts presented.

Suggested sentence starter for commentary:

- "This shows that..."
- _____..."
- "This proves that..."
- _____..."
- "This demonstrates that..."

Suggested sentence starters for conclusion:

- "We need to..."
- "It is our responsibility to ..."
- "It is important to..."
- "In order to _____, we must..."
- "It would be to our benefit to..."

Suggested sentence starters for counter:

- "On the other hand, some people believe
- "One may argue _____; however,

Do Throughout:

- *Incorporate transitions
- *Use high-level vocabulary
- *Vary sentence patterns
- *Create a strong "voice"
- *Show a logical argument throughout