

RA101

Instructions: Final Argument

Fields - Sp17

1. Submit **Final Argument** thru *TurnItIn*, in Blackboard folder "Final Work."

Submit the final argument anytime between the last day of class and the date scheduled for the final:

Monday section: Mon. May 1, 9PM. **Wednesday section:** Wed. May 3, 9PM.

2. Submit **Course Reflection Essay** thru TurnItIn, in Blackboard folder "Final Work."

Use the other TurnItIn link called "Course Reflection Essay."

The TurnItIn link is also open for one week, as above.

You can submit the two papers at different times.

SEE "INSTRUCTIONS for COURSE REFLECTION ESSAY" in the folder "Final Work."

FORMAT FOR FINAL ARGUMENT

Length: 1-2 pages, 250-500 words.

11 or 12-point font, one-inch margins, double or 1.5 spaced.

The argument is the same argument that you are presenting in class, and *it should be revised to be stronger on the basis of feedback received* in discussion after the presentation.

This is not a research paper; it is should be a brief, compelling argument that is well reasoned and well evidenced. See the grading criteria on the next page.

Write the argument as if you were writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper. This will give you an audience to have in mind as you communicate your message. (It could be a university paper or a regional newspaper).

At the top, TITLE the argument with a short title (related to the problem or claim) that conveys something to give the reader an idea of the issue that you frame in the introduction.

Do not type your name, or the course number, or other identifying information on the paper (this information will appear automatically with your paper in Blackboard).

Start by framing a PROBLEM that your argument aims to address.

Don't make the problem too narrow or too broad.

Give EVIDENCE of the ***existence and severity*** of the problem.

Part of a good argument is establishing why your listeners/readers should care about listening to your proposal.

Present a PROPOSED SOLUTION to the problem. This is your main CLAIM.

As might be appropriate USE QUALIFIER(s) to ***qualify your claim*** as regards e.g., its scope, its degree of certainty, and exceptions that may exist.

Argue to support your claim, using the components of Toulmin's model of argument construction.

The components do not need to appear in any particular order; place them in the order that works best to support your claim.

Support your claim with GROUNDS. Grounds must be supported by specific EVIDENCE.

On what basis is your claim plausible?

State WARRANT(s) or GENERAL PRINCIPLE(s) to serve as a ***foundation of the argument*** and to show the ***logical connection of your claim with its supporting grounds***.

State the BACKING for your general principle/warrant. ***On what basis is your W/GP reliable?***

Articulate a possible OBJECTION OR ALTERNATE VIEW, and ***defend your position against it***.

ARGUE by CONSEQUENCES: What is like to be the case if you claim is and is not accepted?

Be specific.

Conclude with a brief RECAP, in order that the main point of your argument is ***clear*** in the mind of your listeners/readers. Don't be repetitive: re-state the main point in different terms.

Include with your written argument a ***source list*** with correct citations (use the citation style of your choice).

GRADING

The final written argument is worth 30% of course-grade (300 points of 1,000).

Each of the following criteria count for 20%.

1. **EDITING & COHERENCE:**

Prepared according to instructions; edited for grammar, spelling and punctuation, articulated clearly, and organized coherently; concise and precise, generally free of fallacies.

2. **DEWEY'S MODEL of PROBLEM FRAMING & SOLVING:**

Framing of problem, with analysis of its cause(s). Clear statement of proposed solution (= main claim)

3. **TOULMIN'S MODEL OF WARRANTED ARGUMENT**

Statement of a general principle (warrant) as a foundation of the argument that shows a logical connection between the main claim and main grounds; identification of backing for warrant (facts and/or values); response to anticipated objection(s); use of qualifiers as appropriate.

4. **EVIDENCE, including effective use of two sources** (at least one, a professional source).

Evidence of existence and significance /severity of the problem; evidence in support of the claim, i.e., evidence that the proposed solution is likely to be effective in reducing the problem (reducing e.g., its severity, extent, frequency, widespread existence).