

## ***“To Make an Informed Decision and Think or Act Accordingly”***

### **Global Argument Requirements and Guidelines**

#### **Topics and Rhetorical Purposes:**

What is a problem, an event, a program, an issue, an idea that you are interested in, are affected by and/or have experience with, and think your audience should care about, too? Or, what is a current social, political, ethical, or moral problem or issue you're affected by and think others should be concerned about as well? How would you like to affect your audience's thinking and/or actions?

Note that this essay's audience is now broader than the “Local Argument,” wherein you wrote to a limited, identifiable audience (either someone you know or an “ideal reader.”) Now you are writing an argument to a broader, more diverse audience. To varying degrees, you may already know this audience, or they may be strangers to you. Regardless, there will likely be more diversity regarding the audiences' individual stances toward the issue.

Suggestion: A *great* option for your audience is your Writing and Rhetoric classmates. They are smart, well-educated, interested, and likely unaware of the particulars of your topic. How about an argument written as a speech to the class? What would you like your classmates to know/believe about the topic?

A situation statement is required: Your qualifications and role, audience, and ultimate goal identified at the top of the paper, single-spaced just above the title. Also include how your audience will see and/or receive your argument. (Will it be a speech to your classmates, for instance? Will it appear in *The Observer* or another publication?)

#### **Other Aspects, Criteria:**

- Weight: to be announced (most likely a “10,” from 0 to 120 points)
- Length: a minimum of 7 double-spaced pages, not including the Works Cited page
- Due: The final copy is due **before noon on Monday, May 4** (very slight extensions may be available: e.g., Tuesday instead of Monday).
- You will not hand in a paper copy of this essay. Instead, you will submit an electronic to your ePortfolio.
- Know that if I have any doubts whatsoever about the authenticity or accuracy of any part of your essay (your writing and your use of sources), I will likely submit the electronic copy to ***www.turnitin.com***. Should there be any instances of plagiarism, no matter how slight, I will submit an Honor Code Violation Report to the Associate Provost's Office, or I will report the plagiarism to the relevant Honesty Committee for a full hearing. For more information about our rights and responsibilities (yours as a student and mine as an instructor), please consult the relevant documents here: ***www.nd.edu/~hnr/code/index.htm***

I take the following pledge seriously: “As a member of the Notre Dame community, I will not participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty.” You should take it seriously, too.

- You cannot recycle or reuse a paper written for another (current or previous) class. This includes an essay written in high school (e.g., your senior English research paper).
- Excluded Topics: In WR, I emphasize the ubiquitous nature of arguments (i.e., “arguments are all around us”). One of my goals is to expand your understanding of what arguments are and how they work. I encourage you to see that we engage in argument every day, not just when we deal with controversial issues or clichéd topics. Thus, the following topics are not allowed for any essay:

abortion	capital punishment	seat belt laws	censorship	parking policies
drinking age	climate change	recycling	euthanasia	gangs
gun control	legalizing drugs	drunk driving	steroids/Creatine	Title IX

Also, if you want to write about any topic already covered by a sample student essay (from the class web page or handouts, for instance), you must discuss your ideas with me before beginning the essay.

- After a certain point, you cannot change paper topics w/o my prior approval. I will let you know when the topic-changing window will close.
- Highlighted Criteria: critical analysis, evaluation, and/or explanation of the issue(s); clarity of explanation; organization; smooth integration of quotations, summaries, and paraphrases; correct citations
- To incorporate your own experiences into this paper, you are encouraged to use “I” in this paper, if you find it relevant. Avoid, though, “I feel/think/believe.”
- If you want to write about the same or a similar topic from your “Local” Argument, that’s fine, but let’s talk individually for a moment about how your approach will differ for this particular paper.
- Documentation: MLA documentation will be used (covered in class and/or explained and demonstrated in Hacker’s *A Pocket Style Manual*).
- Outside Sources:
  - Because this essay fulfills the “research” requirements for WR, you will need to **use and cite a minimum of five different** outside sources in your essay. I will show you examples in class—how to cite, when to cite, why to cite, etc.
  - I will allow Wikipedia as a source, but we will talk in class about the pros and cons of such a resource, especially in a college-level essay.
  - In the overwhelming majority of instances, a dictionary is not a valid source. Do not use a dictionary as a source without consulting with me first.
  - You will need to hand in copies of your sources with your essay:
    - If you use an article from a magazine or newspaper, make a photocopy of the article. (I do not want and will not accept the original.)
    - If you use a website, print the relevant web pages, not the whole website. Printed screenshots are also acceptable.
    - If you use sections from a book, photocopy the relevant pages. Write down, on the photocopy, all relevant citation information.
    - If you interview someone, include that person’s contact information (name, date(s) you interviewed him or her, and phone number and/or email address) in your Works Cited list. I don’t need your notes.
    - If you have any questions, simply ask me.
  - You’ll also attach a Works Cited page, which I’ll explain in class.

So, to summarize, essay submission will include:

1. Final Paper Copy (including Works Cited) printed and uploaded to ePortfolio
2. Copies/Scans/Printouts of Relevant Pages/Sections of Sources printed and uploaded to ePortfolio