

Essay Two: Refutation

- **Due date #1: Feb 6:** draft workshop
 - Bring 2 printed copies. Okay if it's not quite a finished draft.
 - *Skipping a workshop = a lowered grade on revised draft.*
- **Due date #1: Feb 13:** editing & proof-reading workshop
 - Bring 2 printed copies. Must be a finished draft!
- **Due date #3: Feb 16:** Revised draft, to be graded
- **Length:** 750-1,000 words • **Value:** 15% of final grade • **Format:** MLA Style

Details

For this essay, your assignment is refute the argument in one of the essays found in *"They Say / I Say."* A **refutation is an argument seeking to persuade readers that an opinion is untrue.** You will write an essay-length refutation of the argument found in an essay from one of the following "Readings" sections of *TSIS*: "Is Higher Education Worth the Price?" or "Is Fast Food the New Tobacco?"

Find an essay with a thesis you think is wrong. Think about why you think the thesis is wrong. Consider the various supporting arguments the author uses and how you might argue against them. Decide if there are some parts of the author's argument that you can agree with, even if you still disagree, overall, with the thesis.

Organization

After your introductory paragraph—in which you make clear which essay you're responding to as well as your own point of view on the topic in question—be sure to include a concise, accurate summary of that essay's argument. Next, identify those parts of the argument that are the weakest, that are illogical, or that leave out key information. Be sure to provide evidence to support your claim that the essay's argument should be rejected:

- **Evidence of poor logic from the author:** quote or paraphrase the essay, then explain the problems with the author's logic.
- **Evidence that contradicts the author's claims:** incorporate (with correct citation!) information from another source that demonstrates the author is incorrect about a factual claim.

Be sure to conclude with a paragraph that provides closure and leaves the reader with a clear sense of your overall argument about the essay.

"They Say / I Say" Moves

Remember that, as the authors of *"They Say / I Say"* explain, "[t]o launch an effective argument you need to write the arguments of others into your text" (42). Mostly, as you do this, you'll be **summarizing** or **paraphrasing** portions of the essay you're refuting. However, you should also **quote directly** from the essay *when the way that the essay's author has phrased something seems especially important.* **Be sure to incorporate the relevant *TSIS* templates** when you are making some of the basic moves of argumentative writing (and, in this case, argumentative *academic* writing).

MLA Format

Be sure to format your paper according to MLA guidelines: 1-inch margins, the font Times New Roman, 12-point type, double spaced text, indented first lines for every paragraph. In the upper lefthand corner of your first page, type your name, my name, the name of the course, and the date of the draft. In the header of each page, in the upper righthand corner, include your last name and the page number. Include a Works Cited page.