You will write an essay on an important issue, as selected by you. You will use this essay to learn and demonstrate important writing skills including researching, organizing, writing, and revising, as well as the various parts of an essay. You will have time in class to write, conference with me, and revise.

**STEP ONE: TOPIC**

Choose a topic. Come up with something that is interesting to you or that you know something about, if possible. I prefer if you choose your own topic, but here’s a list of suggestions:

• Police brutality (recent taser issues)

• Equal opportunity for women in business, politics, sports, etc.

• Water pollution

• Depletion and/or drying up of major world rivers and bodies of water

• Cell phones and brain cancer

• Human trafficking

**Political Issues**

• Effectiveness of the United Nations

• Domestic terrorism

• Amnesty International

• US intervention in foreign countries

• World hunger

• Importing products created by child labour

• Indigenous Rights

• Buying RED

• Crisis in the Middle East

**Business Topics**

• White collar crime

• US recession

• Safety and children’s toys

• Industry’s effect on Third World nations

• Buying “fair trade” products such as coffee and “community trade” programs at The Body Shop

You may **NOT** choose broad, overdone topics like:

• Abortion

• Capital punishment

• Euthanasia

• Gun control

• Saving the rain forest

• Animal testing

• Legalization of marijuana

**Education**

• Mainstreaming in public schools

• Religious and ethnically focused schools

• Charter schools

• Year-round schooling

• Free post-secondary education

• Security guards in high schools

• Homeschooling

• Alternative ways of funding public schools

**Social Issues**

• Homelessness

• Access to medical care

• Welfare-to-work programs

• Violence in our society

• Illegal immigrants

• Women in the military

• Increasing disparity between rich and poor

• Illiteracy and television

• Television is harmful to children

• Prison reform

• Refugees in Canada

• Airport security measures

• Geoengineering

• International adoption

• Religious cults

**STEP TWO: MAIN IDEA AND THESIS**

Once you have a topic, you need to start thinking about your main idea and thesis. Your thesis might change, so start thinking about the main idea. What argument are you making about your topic?

**MAIN IDEA/ARGUMENT IS DUE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**STEP THREE: RESEARCH THE TOPIC**

Complete research about your topic. Ensure you know what you are talking about. You may choose to organize information in a graphic organizer or by a list. Remember to record all resources you use to avoid plagiarism.

**STEP FOUR: OUTLINING**

Create an outline for your essay. Use one of the samples provided in class or create your own. An outline helps you organize your information to keep your argument effective.  
**OUTLINE IS DUE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**STEP FIVE: DRAFTING**Begin writing your rough copy. As you write, remember that this is an argumentative essay. It needs all of the elements of an essay, including a dynamite thesis, great support, and all the other required elements. Drafting will also include feedback and conferencing with me.  
**ROUGH COPY IS DUE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**STEP SIX: SUBMISSION**  
When you submit, you will be required to print your essay out in MLA style. You will need to also do the following in order for the essay to count as submitted:

* Upload a copy of your essay to TurnItIn.com by the due date
* Include the rubric with your essay, stapled to the back

We will have minilessons in class on essay topics, such as including quotations, writing great introductions and conclusions, and how to make your argument great. When this is done, the process of writing an essay will take less time as you will have the skills in place in order to succeed.

**SUCCESS CRITERIA:**

[ ] I will write an argumentative essay on an important issue

[ ] I will follow the steps outlined on the assignment to demonstrate an understanding of planning

[ ] I will create a clear argument following the rules for an effective thesis

[ ] I will research information to create effective support that supports my argument

[ ] I will ensure the essay connects to a “so what” explanation of why/how the information is important

[ ] I will use formal style

[ ] I will use MLA style, including a works cited page

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**RUBRIC:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ESSAY ELEMENT** | **LEVEL 0: Element Missing** | **LEVEL 1: Below Expectations** | **LEVEL 2: Approaching Expectations** | **LEVEL 3: Meets Expectations** | **LEVEL 4: Above Expectations** |
| **Knowledge of specific essay form, including purpose of essay** | This element has not been included | The specific essay form is not clearly demonstrated | Some aspects of the essay form have been demonstrated | The essay form has been effectively demonstrated | The essay form goes beyond expectations in its awesomeness |
| **Essay has a clear and effective main idea/thesis** | This element has not been included | The main idea/thesis does not meet expectations | The main idea/thesis is close to expectations | The main idea/thesis meets expectations | The main idea/thesis is above expectations |
| **Writing style is appropriate for essay (e.g. formal or informal)** | This element has not been included | The writing style is not appropriate for the essay type | The writing style is sometimes appropriate for the essay type | The writing style is usually appropriate for the essay type | The writing style is always very appropriate for the essay type |
| **Arguments are effectively supported with clear and specific information** | This element has not been included | Arguments are not effectively supported with clear/specific information | Arguments are sometimes supported with clear/specific information | Arguments are usually supported with clear/specific information | Arguments are always supported with clear/specific information |
| **Support is clearly explained to show why/how it is important and/or relevant** | This element has not been included | The essay rarely includes explanations connected to the support | The essay sometimes includes explanations connected to the support | The essay usually includes explanations connected to the support | The essay always includes explanations connected to the support |
| **Information in the essay is organized and clear, with logical connections and transitions between paragraphs** | This element has not been included | The essay is poorly organized and is missing flow | The essay has some organization or flow | The essay usually has organization and flow | The essay has excellent organization and flow |
| **The essay is edited for spelling and grammar, as well as MLA/APA format expectations** | This element has not been included | The essay has limited editing and formatting per expectations | The essay has some editing and formatting per expectations | Most of the essay has been edited and formatted per expectations | All of the essay has been edited and formatted per expectations |

**OVERALL LEVEL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_%**

**COMMENTS & FEEDBACK**