

Argument Essay

Now that you've completed your research and updated your argument proposal, you may begin working on your main argument paper. The topic is the one you've chosen and been working on this semester, and your proposal should work as a guiding document.

Requirements

- Specific, focused target audience
- Clear purpose or goal
- Thesis statement
- Well organized with smooth transitions
- Draw from *at least* eight sources, at least four of them academic
- Sources cited and documented correctly using either MLA or APA (be consistent)
- 2100–2700 words (about 8 to 10 pages), not counting the works cited page

Choosing an Audience

You've already addressed this in your proposal, but remember that your audience should be a real-world audience—be as specific as you can when identifying it (e.g. the members of the Richmond City Council; members of the Kentucky chapter of the Sierra Club; your high school principal). Your audience should be one that can be influenced by an academic approach to writing. The audience should also be able to do something about or with the argument you are presenting—so you'll need to think about your audience and your purpose side by side.

You don't necessarily need to directly address your audience in your essay, like Conti does in hers. Think about how the sample essay about Community-Based Research Partnerships by Meredith Minkler (from our textbook) was written. Minkler doesn't *directly name* or address her audience, but as a class we were able to identify who her audiences probably are—a primary audience of researchers interested in urban health problems, and a secondary audience of citizens who would be involved in such research (the people living in communities where CBPR might be used). By paying attention to her word choice, examples, and the argument itself we were able to tell who her audience is.

The other student example, Leachman's essay on transportation in Oxford, Ohio (shared with you as a pdf as optional reading), the student again makes clear who his audience is by focusing on examples specific to the city and by interpreting research done in other places in light of how that could be applied in the city of Oxford. It becomes clear very quickly that residents of the city of Oxford are his primary audience.

Due Dates

Wednesday April 6 and Friday April 8: Rough Drafts for Workshops

Monday April 11: Full Draft for Conference

Wednesday April 20: Final Draft