

English 101 Persuasive essay #2 – with sources

assignment:

Utilizing evidence gathered from one or more CQ Researcher reports (and other credible online sources if you need additional information), develop an original persuasive essay that advocates a specific position in a controversy. Feel free to balance information gathered in your research with personal testimony, but make sure you illustrate your ability to compose a formal academic essay with MLA documentation, including at least five parenthetical citations in the essay.

practical applications:

Composing a documented persuasive essay will not only help further develop skills addressed in previous assignments but also prepare students to write research-based essays required in other college courses, on the job, and so on.

an overview:

While students can readily find support for their positions by reviewing various reports, properly paraphrasing, quoting, and documenting the information can be challenging. Hopefully the exercises completed prior to composing the essay will help students hone these important academic skills.

Because some students may find themselves struggling to develop the new skills mentioned above, I suggest that the essay follow a simple organizational pattern. The introduction should make clear the controversy discussed and the claim that will be supported. Establishing rapport with readers, perhaps noting how the controversy affects them, is also encouraged. The body of the essay should address the reasoning behind others' positions and/or one or more plans of action to address the problem and then clarify why the writer's position and/or plan of action is more reasonable. Focusing on only three or four main points will help keep the essay manageable. The conclusion should make a final appeal for the writer's position regarding the controversy.

As with other essays required in the course, each student will need to utilize the various stages of the writing process to earn a satisfactory grade. Focusing on a controversy the writer feels strongly about should provide enough incentive to help accomplish this goal.