

ENG 098: Essay on a Public Issue

Due for Peer Review:	4/19, in class. Bring 3 copies.
Final Draft Due:	4/24 or 4/26, in class.
Length:	4-6 pages minimum.
Sources:	3-10, any mix of print and electronic. ***All materials must come from the Delta College Library.***
Presentations:	4/24 (There will be a separate handout with guidelines, and having a handout will mean extra credit.)

In this essay, you will join a discussion on a debatable, public issue by making an argument that supports your position.

AUDIENCE: Your argument will persuade readers who need to rethink their position on the issue as well as readers who have not yet formed an opinion. You can assume your readers keep up on the news, and you should address them in a tone that will command respect.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE: Your argument should awaken its audience to a sense of the problem or issue and the need to take action. Appeals to **pathos** (the emotions) may be effective in accomplishing this feat.

PRESENTATION OF THE CLAIM: Your argument will present a clearly defined claim (thesis). It can be a claim of fact, a claim of value, or a claim of policy.

PRESENTATION OF REASONS: Your argument will give strong reasons in support of the claim which will appeal to resistant readers. Throughout the argument, you will build **ethos**, or credibility, with your audience.

PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE: Your argument will provide convincing evidence to back your reasons. Evidence may come in the form of facts, statistics, case studies, expert opinion, scholarship, interviews, anecdotes, or personal testimony. Part of a writer's ethos rests upon the ability to draw upon information relevant to the issue at hand, and also upon the ability to *engage with recent discussion which the issue has already generated*.

Your sources must come from the Delta LLIC! Your sources can be books, book chapters, newspapers, magazines, scholarly articles, or educational videos. The non-video sources can be either print or electronic.

Your best tools will be the main library catalog, which is called ValCat, the EBSCO databases, and InfoTrac. Because this is an academic writing course, you must limit yourself to academic sources. As a result, avoid using Google, Google Books, etc., as a way to find ultimate sources.

Also, while it is fine to use Wikipedia to get background knowledge, you cannot use it as a source.

ANTICIPATION OF REBUTTALS: The argument anticipates and counters at least one likely objection that a resistant reader may make.

Assessment

Focus Area: Content	
Does my essay make a solid argument with a specific, identifiable claim?	20 points
Does it use acceptable sources (see above description)?	10 points
Does each paragraph use a topic sentence that relates to the main claim?	10 points
Do I build strong ethos with my audience?	10 points
Do I get the reader to care about the issue at hand?	10 points
Does my essay have a title that grabs attention and relates to the argument?	5 points
Focus Area: Form, Conduct, and Style	
Does my essay contain no basic grammar errors?	10 points
Do I cite all my sources within the essay correctly (MLA or APA)?	10 points
Do I include a bibliography?	5 points
Does my essay achieve a level of polish appropriate for college-level work: numbered, stapled pages that meet the length requirement?	5 points
Did I participate fully in peer review?	5 points
Total	100 points