

Argumentative Essay Requirements

Directions/General Assignment Requirements: For the first essay project, you will choose from one of several topics given to you at the beginning of class on Thursday, February 3 (for TR classes) or Friday, February 4 (for MWF classes) and then write an essay on the chosen topic.

Since the focus for this first essay is on Argumentation, be carefully mindful of the principles of argumentation that we discussed in class on January 18/19. Additionally, you will need to apply the principles of argumentation we will have discussed by that point to do well on the essay.

There will be two types of essay question: some will be connected in some way to issues affecting you as a student, and others will be connected to what we have read from *Journal of the Plague Year* up until that point. Each will ask you to state and develop (with evidence/proof) a point of view on a debatable issue. The more plausible your argument is – taking into account the thoughtfulness of the way you structure your essay, the care you put into taking advantage of your rhetorical situation, the reasonability of your position — the better your grade will be.

You may bring your textbooks and notes with you. Also, most importantly, remember to bring plenty of paper to write on and writing materials to work with.

Minimum Assignment Requirements: It should be legible. You cannot expect to get better than a D for this assignment with illegible handwriting.

Special Assignment Requirements, Their Numbers, and Points Subtracted for Each:

- 1) Write the question number you are answering at the top of the first page (-2 points)
- 2) Double-space each page (-1 point)
- 3) Write only on one side of each sheet (-1 point)
- 4) Include an MLA header¹ (-1 point)
- 5) Include a title (-1 point)

For a better sense of how this essay will be graded, go to the web site and look in “Essay Project” under “Grading Rubrics.” If you have any specific questions between now and February 3/4, let me know in class or via email at wvenus@gdn.edu, and I’ll answer them. I am also in the office a lot during the day, so you might also want to schedule time to meet with me.

¹ see p. 468 of NFGW for an example of an MLA header