

## **Essay# 6—OUT OF CLASS—Argumentation/Persuasion—due 11/25**

**Mandatory rough-draft workshop:** Please bring three copies of a rough draft of your argumentation/persuasion essay to class on 11/23 for a peer editing workshop. You will be downgraded ONE FULL GRADE if you do not attend this workshop. Remember, the more writing you bring to the workshop, the more you have, the more you can benefit from the feedback of your peers!

In this essay, you will take a stand on a topic and try to persuade your audience that your point-of-view is crucial. You may choose any topic about which there is at least a moderate amount of controversy; make sure that you both feel strongly about your topic and can incorporate logical reasoning in your argument. This is your opportunity to express your views, make suggestions for social change, or persuade your readers to commit to a course of action.

Your opening thesis should clearly state your position (ie., “It is more than plausible that life exists on other planets”). Subsequent paragraphs must provide strong support for your position. This support can be gleaned from personal interviews with people, from personal observations, as well as information from newspapers, books, magazines, and other media. Be sure to explain **in detail** how your evidence supports your argument. Your closing paragraph should sum up your argument and re-state why you think your viewpoint is valid.

Be mindful and respectful of your opposition’s viewpoints in your essay, even if you do not share their opinions. Acknowledge what the other side believes and try to be rational and logical (as opposed to offensive) when refuting the opposition’s arguments.

You may choose to write a highly reasoned, logical essay, or you can use a more personal approach. However, if you use a more personal tone, please incorporate some logical argumentation with it. The best argumentation/persuasion essays I have read incorporate both emotional and logical evidence.

The setup for this paper can be done in a similar manner to any of the papers we have done so far in class. For example, the compare/contrast model works well, in which you contrast the opposition’s viewpoint with your own and provide a rebuttal of the opposition’s viewpoints.

### **Your essay must be:**

4-6 pages in length

Double-spaced, one inch margins, MLA format.

Given a catchy title

Sources acknowledged in the essay, using parenthetical references and a Works Cited page at the end.

