

ENGL 1A: First-Year Writing  
Paper 1 Assignment: Hotly Contested Issue

**Learning Goals:**

- Develop an awareness of how language structures communities
- Develop an awareness of critical situations in communities
- Demonstrate an understanding of critical and rhetorical concepts

**Specifics of the Assignment:**

In class, we have been talking about the ways that communities develop around critical situations and are structured by arguments about those situations. For this assignment you will practice rhetorical invention to choose a critical situation that affects a community you have access to (it may be one you're a part of, but it does not have to be). Then, you will write an essay exploring multiple perspectives that members of the community hold about the situation. This may include:

- defining the community
- describing important aspects of the critical situation
- describing the issue
- explaining how people argue about the issue
- considering why this issue is important to members of the community.

**Note:** as we have discussed, different people will have different ideas about what is important and why, even when they talking about the same issue.

The goal of this assignment is NOT to argue that one or another position is the right one. Instead, the goal is to create a map of the critical issue by considering the various ways it is argued about. In order to do this, you need to show the many ways that people are talking about your critical situation by conducting primary and secondary research.

**Specifications:**

- Hard copy of first draft for peer review
- Typed, double spaced (feel free to print on both sides of the paper)
- Please format your paper according to the style guide you feel most comfortable with.
- Digital final draft turned in to Canvas
- This assignment, including drafts, should be approximately 1200 words.

**Due Dates:**

**FIRST DRAFT** for Peer Review due 09/08/15

**FINAL DRAFT** due 09/22/15

Please see me if you have questions at any time during the process!