**Argumentative Essay Assignment**

**Draft** 1: Tuesday 12/ 6

**Draft** 2: Thursday, 12/ 8

**Final Copy**: Friday, 12/ 9

**Directions**: Write an argumentative essay on one of the mentioned topics below. You must pick a stance and do one of the following: validate it, change the audience's mind, or call the audience to action. See criteria below:

*You must send the essay typed and printed, via a word document attached to an e-mail, or shared though Office 365. Any other form sent will be considered late if the correct form is not sent by Friday, 12/9.*

-400-500 words (roughly 2 pages typed, double-spaced)

-Must have an introduction paragraph that includes the thesis

-Must have 3-4 body paragraphs explaining at least 2 claims

-Must include a counterclaim in one of the body paragraphs

-Must have a conclusion paragraph

**Topic Ideas:** See handout/ back of paper.

**Grading Rubric:**

\_\_\_\_/ 3 points, Thesis (1-2 sentences)

\_\_\_\_/ 3 points, Intro with hook, thesis

\_\_\_\_/ 6 points, Claim/ Counter claim body paragraphs and organization

\_\_\_\_/ 2 points, at least 1 appropriate internal citation

\_\_\_\_/ 4 points, transitions between paragraphs, claims

\_\_\_\_/ 2 points, conclusion

\_\_\_\_/ 10 points, Grammar

\_\_\_\_ Commas \_\_\_\_ Run-ons/ fragments

\_\_\_\_ Hyphen, dash, semicolons \_\_\_\_\_Tense

\_\_\_\_ Person \_\_\_\_\_ Contractions

\_\_\_\_ Spelling \_\_\_\_\_ Word choice

**= \_\_\_\_\_/ 30 points**

**Argument Essay Topic Ideas:**

**School/ Education:**

[Is Cheating Getting Worse?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/09/10/why-do-students-cheat-in-school/)

[How Seriously Should Schools Take Standardized Tests?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/12/05/how-seriously-should-we-take-standardized-tests/)

[Should Schools Offer Cash Bonuses for Good Test Scores?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/10/04/should-schools-offer-cash-bonuses-for-good-test-scores/)

[Should Colleges Use Admissions Criteria Other Than SAT Scores and Grades?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/10/02/should-colleges-use-other-admissions-criteria-instead-of-sat-scores-or-grades/)

[How Necessary Is a College Education?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/04/30/how-necessary-is-a-college-education/)

How Much Should School Dress Codes Be Allowed To Regulate?

**Technology and Social Media:**

[Should People Be Allowed to Obscure Their Identities Online?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/18/should-people-be-allowed-to-obscure-their-identities-online/)

[Should Tablet Computers Become the Primary Way Students Learn in Class?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/13/should-tablet-computers-become-the-primary-way-students-learn-in-class/)

[Does Technology Make Us More Alone?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/04/does-technology-somehow-make-us-more-alone/)

[Would You Trade Your Paper Books for Digital Versions?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/10/21/would-you-trade-your-paper-books-for-digital-versions/)

[How Young Is Too Young for an iPhone?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/10/29/how-young-is-too-young-for-an-iphone/)

**Arts and Media:**

[Does TV Capture the Diversity of America Yet?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/11/05/does-tv-capture-the-diversity-of-america-yet/)

[What Current Musicians Do You Think Will Stand the Test of Time?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/10/25/what-current-musicians-do-you-think-will-stand-the-test-of-time/)

[Should Stores Sell Violent Video Games to Minors?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/11/04/should-stores-sell-violent-video-games-to-minors/)

[To What Writer Would You Award a Prize?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/10/08/to-what-author-would-you-award-a-prize/)

[Does Pop Culture Deserve Serious Study?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/01/does-pop-culture-deserve-serious-study/)

**Gender Issues:**

[Is School Designed More for Girls Than Boys?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/02/05/is-school-designed-more-for-girls-than-boys/)

[Do Fraternities Promote Misogyny?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/05/09/do-fraternities-promote-misogyny/)

[Should Women Be Allowed to Fight on the Front Lines Alongside Men?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/01/24/should-women-be-allowed-to-fight-on-the-front-lines-alongside-men/)

**Sports/ Athletics:**

[Should Parents Let Their Children Play (contact) Football?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/19/should-parents-let-their-sons-play-football/)

[Is Cheerleading a Sport?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/05/24/is-cheerleading-a-sport/)

[Should Sports Betting Be Legal Everywhere?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/02/03/should-sports-betting-be-legal-everywhere/)

[Are Some Youth Sports Too Intense?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/10/11/are-some-youth-sports-too-intense/)

**Politics and the Legal System:**

[What Is More Important: Our Privacy or National Security?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/17/what-is-more-important-our-privacy-or-national-security/)

[When Is the Use of Military Force Justified?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/10/when-is-the-use-of-military-force-justified/)

[Do Leaders Have Moral Obligations?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/09/do-leaders-have-moral-obligations/)

[Would You Feel Safer With Armed Guards Patrolling Your School?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/01/18/would-you-feel-safer-with-armed-guards-patrolling-your-school/)

[When Should Juvenile Offenders Receive Life Sentences?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/06/08/when-should-juvenile-offenders-receive-life-sentences/)

**Parenting and Childhood:**

[Are Adults Hurting Young Children by Pushing Them to Achieve?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/05/16/are-adults-hurting-young-children-by-pushing-them-to-achieve/)

[Does ‘Shame and Blame’ Work to Change Teenage Behavior?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/03/13/do-shame-and-blame-work-to-change-teenage-behavior/)

[Should Children Be Allowed to Wear Whatever They Want?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/05/13/should-kids-be-allowed-to-wear-whatever-they-want/)

[When Should People Be Able to Buy Cigarettes, Drink Alcohol, Vote, Drive and Fight in Wars?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/04/25/at-what-ages-should-you-be-able-to-buy-cigarettes-drink-alcohol-vote-drive-and-fight-in-wars/)

**Health and Nutrition:**

[How Concerned Are Should Consumers Be About Where Food Comes From?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/09/16/how-concerned-are-you-about-where-your-food-comes-from/)

[Is It Ethical to Eat Meat?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/04/19/is-it-ethical-to-eat-meat/)

[Should the Government Limit the Size of Sugary Drinks?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/10/03/should-the-government-limit-the-size-of-sugary-drinks/)

[Are Antismoking Ads Effective?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/03/19/are-antismoking-ads-effective/)

[Should Students Be Required to Take Drug Tests?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/10/12/should-students-be-required-to-take-drug-tests/)

**Personal Character and Morality Questions**

[Do Bystanders Have a Responsibility to Intervene When There is Trouble?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/04/23/do-bystanders-have-a-responsibility-to-intervene-in-crimes/)

[Should Couples Live Together Before Marriage?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/04/17/should-couples-live-together-before-marriage/)

[How Long Is It O.K. to Linger in a Cafe or Restaurant?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/01/29/how-long-is-it-okay-to-linger-in-a-cafe-or-restaurant/)

[How Important Is Keeping a Clean House?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/12/09/how-important-is-keeping-a-clean-house/)

[Can Money Buy Happiness?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/10/07/can-money-buy-you-happiness/)

[How Important Is Keeping a Clean House?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/12/09/how-important-is-keeping-a-clean-house/)

[What Time Should Black Friday Sales Start?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/28/what-time-should-black-friday-sales-start/)

[How Much Does Your Neighborhood/ Hometown Define Who You Are?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/10/22/how-much-does-your-neighborhood-define-who-you-are/)

**Science**:

[Should Scientists Try to Help People Beat Old Age So We Can Live Longer Lives?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/12/03/should-scientists-try-to-help-people-beat-old-age-so-we-can-live-radically-longer-lives/)

[How Concerned Should Humanity Be About Climate Change?](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/11/27/how-concerned-are-you-about-climate-change/)

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/02/04/200-prompts-for-argumentative-writing/>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pd. \_\_\_\_

**Brainstorming/ Outlining:**

**Topic:**

**Audience:**

**Purpose: (choose one)**

To validate......

To prove.......

To convince.....

To urge....

**Thesis** (debatable):

**Reason 1 (strong):**

**Reason 2 (stronger):**

**Reason 3 (strongest):**

*

**Opposing Viewpoint:**

**Who will disagree with my point?**

**Why will they disagree?**

**Why are they "wrong" and I'm "right"**?

Conclusion

**Restate thesis:**

**Summarize points:**

**End with action:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pd. \_\_\_\_

**Brainstorming:**

1. **Topic: (Question):**

**Position Statement (Thesis):**

**Reasons:**

1. **Topic: (Question):**

**Position Statement (Thesis):**

**Reasons:**

1. **Topic: (Question):**

**Position Statement (Thesis):**

**Reasons:**

**Pick One**: How much do I know about this topic?

Is my position clear and something that people can agree/ disagree with?

What is the opposing viewpoint of this topic?

**Reasons:**

1 2

Rebuttal: Rebuttal: