

Essay #3: Argumentative Essay (with research)

While all essays should contain an argument or thesis, this essay assignment will concentrate on using the essay as a forum for debate. Therefore, this essay will focus on arguing one side of a question, using textual evidence gathered from a class text and your own research. In writing this essay, you will hone your argumentative skills and analyze the skills of others, as shown in the essays we are reading.

1. Choose one of the essays we will read in class for this section:

Bakdash, Tarif, and Nancy Scheper-Hughes. "Is It Ethical for Patients with Renal Disease to Purchase Kidneys from the World's Poor?"

Brandt, Barbara. "Less is More: A Call for Shorter Work Hours"

Dickey, Sara. "Anjali's Prospects: Class Mobility in Urban India"

DePalma, Anthony. "Fifteen Years on the Bottom Rung"

Gladwell, Malcolm. "Black Like Them"

Ehrenrie, Barbara, and Annette Fuentes. "Life on the Global Assembly Line"

Wilkerton, Isabel. "Angela Whitiker's Climb"

Kilborn, Peter T. "The Five-Bedroom, Six-Figure Rootless Life"

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. "Lifeboat Ethics: Mother Love and Child Death in Brazil"

2. Identify one of the major arguments in the text, and decide whether to support or argue against that argument. For example, ONE of the arguments in the Dickey text suggests that class in India is not as linked to caste as Western researchers often believe; you can argue either for or against this conclusion. The Brandt text suggests that shorter work hours would be beneficial for a number of reasons: do you agree?

3. In order to support your argument, you will need to do some outside research. You will need to find **at least two scholarly sources** to be used in addition to your main source text, and you may wish to use three or four. (We will be discussing the difference between scholarly and other texts in class.) You will use these sources as resources for evidence to support your argument -- for example, if you choose to argue about work hours, you may wish to look at statistics about fatigue and errors associated with long work days. You may use outside non-scholarly sources as well (personal essays, letters to the editor, etc.), but these would be *in addition to* the two scholarly sources.

This should be a **formal** essay, written in clear academic style. While I (as a social scientist rather than a humanist) do not require you to completely abjure the use of the first person, I do require all other elements of formality.

This essay should be **five to six pages long**, exclusive of the Works Cited page.

Remember to do the following:

- Write a thesis that argues for your opinion coherently and convincingly.
 - Support your thesis with relevant examples drawn from your text(s).
 - Use relevant and scholarly sources to support your argument.
 - Structure your essay in such a way that each point leads naturally to the next and provides not only a good flow for the reader, but a build-up of convincing arguments.
 - Use correct and clear language.
 - Use appropriate formatting and citation.
- All papers must be typed or word-processed *and printed out*. No email submissions will be accepted.

- Three (3) copies of each rough draft must be brought to class for peer review.
- Your full name must appear on the first page of the paper and your last name in a header or footer in subsequent pages.
- All papers must be spell checked; they must have page numbers; they must use in-text citation; they must have a correctly formatted Works Cited page; they must have a title; they must be written in 12-point font and have margins of one inch; they must be double-spaced; **and all of these things are required for every draft.** (Please refer to the handouts on citation and essay style)
- Every paper must have a *cover letter*. (Please refer to the handout on cover letters)
- A peer review letter must be provided for every paper you review during the peer review cycle.
- Written work submitted later than fifteen minutes after the beginning of class on the due date will be counted as a day late. Late papers are lowered by a third of a grade for each day late (i.e. a B+ paper will be graded B), except in cases of illness or emergency.
- All sources MUST be cited.**

Your **first draft is due on 11/6**. Please remember to bring three copies (four if you wish to retain one) to class, and to prepare a cover letter for each one.

Your **final draft is due on 11/13**. You need bring only one copy, but do not forget the cover letter, your commented-on copies of the previous draft, and peer review letters.