Argumentative/Persuasive Research Project

The purpose of a persuasive or argumentative research paper is to get the reader to side with you on a particular topic for the reasons that you present. As a group you will be investigating a controversial issue in the Charleston, SC area. You will formulate an argument that will be developed into a research paper and a public service announcement.

Remember that you are formulating an argument. You are the voice for this problem.

Persuasive and argumentative papers contain some common elements:

- Clarify the relevant values of the topic so that the audience can see the position of the paper.
- Present facts that support the side of the argument that you plan to present and to persuade for or against.
- Sequence or prioritize the facts in a manner that builds the argument in the most influential way.
- Form and state conclusions: the conclusion should never be thought of as just a summary of the paper. If you answer the question, “So why am I writing this paper to the audience?” you can create a stronger conclusion that does what it intended to do, persuade.

Topics:
- Drug war
- Teen pregnancy
- Underage drinking
- Domestic violence
- Childhood obesity
- Homelessness
- Welfare
- Bullying
- Dating violence
- Texting and driving

These are the topics you will pick from. If you want to choose something that is not on the list, you must clear it with your teacher. The topics will be chosen by each group. Once the topic has been chosen; it is gone. One topic per group (per class).
Requirements for English IV Research Project:

1. Essential Question: Due September 17th
2. Topic Proposal: Due September 28th
   a. Your thesis statement must have the topic, position, and three supporting arguments. You must also include your counterarguments.
   b. List each member’s responsibility for the paper.
3. Note from your research: These will be graded while research is being conducted in the media center.
4. Annotated Bibliography: Due October 12th
   a. Sources must consist of interviews, a book, and an article from an on-line academic journal.
   b. You may not use any “.com” websites or Wikipedia.
   c. An annotated bibliography consists of MLA citations and a brief paragraph about the source.
5. Outline: Due November 9th
   a. See handout
   b. Must be typed
6. Rough Draft: Due November 23rd
   a. Two copies
   b. Must be typed
7. Final Draft: Due December 7th
   a. Two copies
   b. Must be typed
8. PSA (Public Service Announcement): Due January 4th

Research Paper Format:

MLA
7-8 pages
12 point font
Double Spaced
Times New Roman
Works Cited Page (does not count as the 7th page)
## Outline: Each Roman numeral will be a paragraph.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Member</th>
<th>I. Introduction: 1-2 paragraphs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member 1</td>
<td>a. Hook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Background on your topic. <em>Explain what your controversy is</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>i. __</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ii. __</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Thesis (the roadmap of your paper)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Member</td>
<td>II. First Body paragraph: The counterargument. <em>You need to address the other side of the argument. Do not make this more persuasive than your position. This does not have to come first. The counterargument can come at the end or before every argument. You must decide how you want to organize your paper.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Member 2</td>
<td>a. Topic sentence</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Explain how others view the topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Member</td>
<td>III. First argument: 4-6 paragraphs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member 3</td>
<td>a. Topic sentence</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Evidence from source (DON’T FORGET THE PAGE NUMBER and DON’T FORGET TO INTRODUCE YOUR SOURCE (only the first time).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>i. Explain how it supports your argument</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ii. More explanation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Member</td>
<td>IV. Second argument: 4-6 paragraphs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member 4</td>
<td>a. Topic Sentence</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Evidence from source (DON’T FORGET THE PAGE NUMBER and DON’T FORGET TO INTRODUCE YOUR SOURCE (only the first time).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>i. Explain how it supports your argument</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ii. More explanation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Member</td>
<td>V. Third argument: 4-6 paragraphs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member 1</td>
<td>a. Topic Sentence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Evidence from source (DON’T FORGET THE PAGE NUMBER and DON’T FORGET TO INTRODUCE YOUR SOURCE (only the first time).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>i. Explain how it supports your argument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ii. More explanation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Member</td>
<td>VI. Conclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member 1</td>
<td>a. Restate your thesis but in different words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Come up with a solution to the problem.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview of the Senior Research Project:

Format:
- MLA
- Double-spaced
- Typed; black ink; 12 point font; Times New Roman
- 7-8 pages
- Each group member is responsible for about 2 pages
- Must be in 3rd person (do not use “I”, “we”, or “us”)

Audience:
- Teacher,
- peers,
- community

Purpose:
You should choose a controversial issue, and you should persuade your audience to agree with your position.

Introduction:
You need a hook to grab the reader’s attention. Address the controversy; give some background on the issue. Thesis: topic, position, and three reasons to argument (the roadmap). The point of this paper is to explore an issue or resolve a problem, so identify and explain the complication you see.

Body:
- Provide evidence to support your arguments
- Make sure the topics sentences are clear
  - Details
  - Statistics
  - Facts
  - Interviews
- You must also include the rebuttal (the other side of the issue)

Conclusion:
The conclusion will bring the paper to a closing. It should leave the reader agreeing with your position. You must suggest a solution to the problem.

Works Cited Page:
This is the last page of the paper titled Works Cited and it does not count toward the 7-8 page count requirement.
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

SCRIPT IT!

- Gather what you need from your research and your paper.
- Create an outline/script of what you will argue; what evidence supports it- basic rough draft of what you want to say/argue.
- Select appropriate research- it’s time for you to showcase what you know!! It’s your time to become the EXPERTS!

PRODUCTIONS: SHOOTING AND ACQUISITIONS

- Gather pictures (Google, Digital cameras)
- Get your video (interviews, YouTube, etc.) Tip: don’t use more than 15-20 seconds at a time!
- Get your music.
- Storyboard it! Decide how your narration will work with video and pictures.
- Movie Maker/iMovie- Work the magic and put it together.
- Credit everything that is NOT yours!

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be 1 minute and 30 seconds – 2 minutes in length
- Must have a title and creators (names of group members)
- Must be appropriate- no offensive language or videos
- Must advocate for your cause
- Must have credits