

## ANALYSIS / ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY PROMPT

### *Analysis*

You will begin the process of writing the persuasive essay by asking a question related to one or more of the articles read this quarter. Next, use the analysis to help you answer this question.

In other words, you will use analytical writing as a tool to help you learn about and inquire into an issue raised by our reading that you care about personally. Before you can write persuasively about a topic, you need to learn about topic—this written analysis will provide a way to learn about the topic that you are planning to argue.

Be sure to choose a topic and question that interests you personally, something that is connected to your own experience and life. We all have experience with at least some of the issues covered by our readings: language, literacy, education, work, power— think about something we've read that really had an impact on you, and consider what kinds of further questions you could raise in relation to this reading and your own experience.

Then find texts related to this question or topic that can be analyzed. You could analyze articles, films, news programs, websites—anything that you think might help you learn more about your topic.

### *Guidelines*

Your analysis should:

- Arise out of a question related to the themes covered in the Essay Exam Unit, which can, at least in part, be answered through analysis.
- Demonstrate that you've examined a text or set of texts closely, carefully, and critically.
- Include a clear interpretive frame through which the text(s) will be analyzed.
- Note trends and patterns that are significant in relation to your interpretive frame.
- Show a critical awareness of the author's or producer's choices and strategies.
- Develop a clear and specific thesis that invites the reader to read the text in the same way that you do.
- Provide a vivid description of the text(s) (if applicable).
- Analyze elements that contribute to the overall meaning or effect of the whole.
- Integrate textual evidence to support your thesis.
- Provide a clear and persuasive argument for your interpretation of the text.
- Develop well-organized paragraphs.
- Incorporate peer and instructor feedback in the final version.

**ANALYSIS / ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY PROMPT*****Argument***

For the next part of this assignment, you will build upon the analysis by creating a researched argument that focuses on a central claim that is supported by reasons and evidence. In the first part of this assignment, you asked questions and then conducted analysis in order to begin answering that question. In this second part, you will take a position on the issues raised by your analysis.

***Guidelines***

Successful essays will:

1. Offer a unique thesis based upon the analysis.
2. Use research and credible scholarly evidence to support a unique argument. At least 5-6 credible sources must be used; at least 1-2 of those sources needs to be a scholarly text.
3. Include a clear central claim (thesis) that states your position on the topic at hand.
4. Support the central claim with reasons and evidence.
5. Consider and respond to the plausible reactions to your argument in your essay.
6. Raise questions for further study on this topic.
7. Include proper documentation of all outside sources (MLA Style).

***Questions***

Please consider these additional questions:

- Have you established a clear context for your argument?
- Is your argument significant? That is, have you established that your topic, and your position on it, contributes to an ongoing academic conversation in the field of composition and rhetoric?
- Are your premises and claims supported by credible reasons and academic evidence?
- Did you establish a clear thesis and provide a road map for your readers so they can easily follow your argument?

***Format***

- Typed and double spaced with one inch margins
- 3-4 pages (analysis) in 12 point font in Times New Roman
- 4-5 pages (argument) in 12 point font in Times New Roman
- MLA format