

## Argument Essay Prompt

**Assignment:** Your final essay assignment will be to write an argument essay about an aspect of the brain and its effects on our behavior. By now, you should have selected your topic, supporting reasons, counterarguments, and refutations. The final draft of this essay is due **Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> @11:59pm**. Please note that this essay cannot be revised. Plan ahead!

**Structure:** Please refer to the “Argument Essay Outline” handout. You must follow the outline according to your level.

### Possible essay topics:

- Does the brain shape our personality?
- Should high schools change their schedules to accommodate teenagers?
- Should teenage criminal offenders be charged as adults?
- Should people multi-task?
- Should parents treat sons differently than daughters?
- Should addiction be considered an illness?

### Requirements:

#### All papers must:

- Be double spaced, use 12 pt. Times New Roman font, and have 1” margins all around.
- Include five **highlighted** (5) vocabulary words AND three (3) quotes in your response from the textbook.
- Include two (2) sentences with **3 conditional**. Include three (3) sentences with **indirect speech**. Underline these in your paper.
- Include at least three (3) paraphrased ideas from the research you have gathered. Cite these appropriately.
- Include a Works Cited page at the end of the essay. Failure to include this sheet will result in an automatic 0 for this assignment.

#### Introduction:

- Must be at 10-12 lines long.

#### Body paragraphs:

- Must be 15+ lines long EACH.

#### Conclusion:

- Must be 8+ lines long.

#### Other notes:

- Your FINAL draft must be submitted to Canvas by the due date. I will accept late final drafts at a grade penalty of 5% for each calendar day it is late (i.e. including weekends).

# Argument Essay Checklist

Are you finished with your essay? Before you submit on Canvas, check for the following:

- Did you format according to MLA?
  - 1" margins
  - 12 point font
  - Times New Roman font
  - Double spaced
  - No extra space between paragraphs
  - Header with your last name and page number
  - Heading with your name, my name, the class, and the date
- Did you indent each new paragraph with the TAB key?
- Is your introduction 10-12 lines long?
- Is each body paragraph 15+ lines long?
  - Do you have three (3) body paragraphs in total?
  - Do you have CLEAR TRANSITIONS to introduce your points of comparison AND the examples? (See the "Cause/Effect Essay: Writing the Body Paragraphs" for more info)
  - Do you have at least two (2) DETAILED examples per body paragraph?
- Is your conclusion 8+ lines long?
- Did you use and **HIGHLIGHT** five (5) vocabulary words?
- Did you use and UNDERLINE two (2) sentences with 3 conditional?
- Did you use and UNDERLINE three (3) sentences with indirect speech?
- Did you use and "QUOTE" at least three (3) sentences from the article?
  - Did you include a page number in parentheses after the quote?
- Did you paraphrase at least three (3) ideas from research
  - Did you include the author's last name and page number in parentheses after the paraphrase?
  - Did you include different types of evidence? : anecdotes, statistics, expert opinion,
- Did you include a Works Cited page at the end?
  - Did you order the names alphabetically?
  - Did you use hanging indent?

## Final reminders:

- **Do not copy anything from the internet without citing! This is cheating. You will get a 0 on your essay if any sentence, even ONE, is copied from the internet without citations.**