

AP Seminar

Individual Written *Argument* (IWA)

Argumentative
EVIDENCE-BASED WRITING

STEP 1: HOOK (attention-grabbing opener)

■ Current event/trend

In the media, many celebrities, such as Melanie Martinez, like to represent America's prescription drug overuse by coining terms such as "pill diet"; consequently, what is being referred to is finding a quick fix to a larger issue.

■ Eye catching fact/statistic

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, only 20% of e-waste produced by Americans is recycled and the leftovers are traded to third world countries who improperly dispose of it (Rodgers).

■ Anecdote/Relevant Story

On a cold February morning at 5am, a bicyclist was shot by a man in an apparent road rage incident. Before he died, the wounded cyclist knocked on five doors crying and pleading for help, but no one answered.

Extend & Explain Significance of Hook

Example:

When does a friendly flirtation at the office turn into sexual harassment? Many people ponder the murky line separating a bad idea from breaking the law. In 2017, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission reportedly received more than 7,500 sexual harassment claims, which is a 14 percent increase from 2017 (Murad). This number does not include the unreported cases which is commonplace since people tend to avoid embarrassment and conflict and worry about jeopardizing their job security.

STEP 2: Provide Context...

Use 1) context sources 2) 1 Expert 3) 1 stimulus source to discuss the following...

- **Objective Explanation** (**what** is the issue?): Historically, each state determines their own Good Samaritan Law and who to protect: the victim, the first responders, the bystander, and/or the Good Samaritan. In recent years, the Good Samaritan law provides less protection for the person that the law was first named after.
- **Connect topic to a theme in the stimulus packet & utilize a stimulus source.** Examples: Resilience, ingenuity, sustainability, ethical living, etc.
- **Key Terminology:** Ex. Good Samaritan (catch reader up to speed)
- **Who** is affected by this issue?
- **Where:** hotspots, centralized to a certain area/region, or why it's pervasive.
- **How** has this issue recently enflamed/escalated/worsened or how have has a recent event highlighted this ongoing problem?
- Discussing **when** this issue began is sometimes appropriate (Ex. War on Drugs, nuclear weapon stockpiling).
- Establish **why this matters!**
- Determine if you want to use a **stimulus source** as part of building the context.

**This section will show your knowledge and grasp of the issue.*

STEP 3: add next...

- **So What?** What is significant about this issue? (zoom out- bigger picture)
- 1. **Make a value judgement** (address ethics: justice, morals, fairness) using one of the stimulus packet themes (resilience, sustainability, values, progress, integrity, ethical living, etc.) by addressing the current social condition. So, what point will you make using a theme?
- 2. **Challenge a common conception**
- Research Question: What question should be raised or is begging to be asked?
- Lenses: What lenses will be used to analyze the issue in the hopes to achieve...
- **Thesis**: What is your position on an issue or solution to an issue?

Important:

Choice 1: Explanatory essay = thesis appears in intro and defends/explains this response to RQ for the rest of the paper.

Choice 2: Exploratory essay = thesis appears in the conclusion; paper explores and builds to the RQ answer.

Sign-posting/Headers

These are a personal preference and do not need to be in the paper unless you want to do so.

Suggestions:

- Introduction
- Topical Heading that implies Lens 1
- Topical Heading that implies Lens 2
- Topical Heading that implies Lens 3
- Solution (for a position-based paper)
- Conclusion

COUNTERARGUMENT: Part 1

- **Concession:** to admit there is an opposition/opposing viewpoint

START WITH THOSE YOU DISAGREE WITH...

Quote/paraphrase expert sources whose solutions you disagree with. State their opinion first, put them in conversation with each other, and then provide rationale and evidence (other expert sources) to dispute them and support your position! Spend the rest of your paper building up your solution/position.

Position-based Argument Example:

According to Joseph Fowler, expert behavioral psychologist from Stanford University, argues it is natural for a bystander to experience debilitating fear when witnessing a violent event and this explains people's inclination for standing by and watching without doing anything (Smith). Furthermore, anthropologist Dr. Timothy Boyd claims that bystanders should not be held accountable because social norms dictate that it is not socially acceptable to interfere in situation where one does not belong. Both Fowler and Boyd maintain that bystanders are not culpable.

Respond to the COUNTERARGUMENT: Part 2

- **Refutation:** to refute, rebut, counter, disprove

Green = Explain why the opposition's thinking is flawed point for point.

However, there are cases recorded daily where witnesses do act, and it can be argued that it goes against our genetic make-up not to help others in need. In a research study published in the Journal of Neuroscience, researchers found that “individual life satisfaction” is influenced by a number of factors including doing “good deeds,” which increases serotonin levels in the brain and thus increases happiness (De Neve). For instance, In New York City, Wesley Autrey handed his children to a stranger in a move to save another man who had fallen on the subway tracks. As Autrey covered Cameron Hallopeter’s body with his own, the train cleared Autrey’s head by one inch. To this day Autrey states he “never felt afraid” and feels “good about what [he] did” (Buckley). The problem of the nonresponsive bystander has less to do with debilitating fear and more to do with the fear of bodily harm and/or retaliation. Additionally, inaction cannot be condoned on behalf of good manners, since it would be considered rude to ignore someone in need. Within the state of Michigan, the Good Samaritan Law only protects the bystander who does not help; it does not protect the Good Samaritan or the first responders. **Consequently, Michigan’s Good Samaritan Law needs to be expanded to protect untrained Good Samaritans and emergency personnel so that more lives are saved, not lost.**

Red = thesis statement

Confirmation

Latin verb *confirmare* means to “strengthen” or “establish”

- **Purpose of paper:**
 - *Argue, convince*
 - *Use evidence to advance YOUR Thesis, minor claims*
 - *Don't let sources speak for you or in place of you; use what others say to argue/support your opinion*
- **Type of argument:** Solution-Based or Position-Based
- **Build an argument via...**
 - *a logical line of reasoning*
 - *and credible supporting evidence.*
- **Weight:**
 - *1/3 of your argument is the introduction, counterargument, and conclusion.*
 - *So, 2/3 of your argument should be the confirmation in order to convince your audience.*
- **Sign-posting:** Confirmation paragraphs needs **topic sentences** to point to the reader what the main idea/point of each paragraph is.
- **Audience:** Educated, nonspecialized, skeptical

ACTIVITY

IMPROVED EXCERPT: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), an organization with the power to regulate the communication of information, should regulate VR journalism content to document traumatic events because media violence could lead to more aggressive behavior and thoughts in viewers. Research from Craig Anderson (2018) suggests that in the short-term, spanning from a few minutes up to a few days, exposure to media violence increases the likelihood of "physically and verbally aggressive behavior, aggressive thoughts, and aggressive emotions" in youth. And, beyond that, Anderson's (2018) research also suggests that in the long-run, exposure to media violence leads to a more aggressive persona and thought processes, as well as more aggressive beliefs about social behavior and desensitization, which are considerably less reversible than the short-term effects. Because exposure to violent media can have lasting and significant impacts for youth, it is essential that the FCC regulate VR journalism. Leaving this type of journalism without any restrictions would...

DIRECTIONS: As you draft your IWA, highlight sources in yellow and your own analysis, ideas, and points (voice) in green.

Note: If there is not at least a balance between your own voice and sources, then you are letting them speak too much for you!

Conclusion

- State/Restate Thesis (reiterating answer to your thesis or build-up to)
- Circle back to why this issue matters (zoom out to even greater significance)
- Revisit stimulus source, hook, or anecdote (circle back) and provide insight on the even greater significance of this example.
- Zoom out: Reflect on the greater meaning of issue. Revisit theme and explain a new understanding (resilience, sustainability, ingenuity, ethical living, etc.)
- Visualize the future with and/or without employing a solution.
- Zinger (last sentence): a memorable final statement that has impact on your readership.

Example Zinger: Ideally, the night shift can still remain at the heart of U.S. society as workers assume a healthier and more productive lifestyle. *(utilizes all 3 rhetorical appeals)*

Classic Conclusion: Solution, CALL TO ACTION, Visualization, & RHETORICAL?

Solution & Call to Action: use pronouns like us, we, & our.

So what can we do to solve this dilemma? **We can start by changing Michigan's laws to protect heroes by urging our state legislators to rewrite our Good Samaritan Law through letters and phone calls. The bigger hurdle will be to eradicate apathy and inaction in our own behavior. To do this, we all can lead by example, do the right, and be role models for our children even when that choice is difficult and there might be consequences.** Then, and only then, will we be able to look ourselves in the mirror. Otherwise, you or someone you love might be the next person in need without a brotherly or sisterly hand reaching out to help. So, when the opportunity to aid others comes knocking, ask yourself this question: If not me, then who?

Zinger/Rhetorical Question: Make a logical point and try to utilize pathos, emotional appeal

Formatting Expectations

- Title Page: Title, Assignment, Class, Date, Word Count
- 1" margins
- 12-size font
- Double space entire document (no extra spaces between paragraph & indent ¶s)
- Citing
 - *Credibility: Introduce authors with credentials (11 sources + stimulus source)*
 - *Internal Citations must cross-check with Works Cited page.*
 - *Full citations for **every** source used in the paper according to the MLA Element Order appear on the Works Cited page*
 - *List sources alphabetically*
 - *Double-space within and between sources*
 - *With each cited source, 1st line is left-aligned and indent the 2nd line and all other lines that follow.*
 - *Example WC: [MLA Sample Works Cited Page - Purdue OWL® - Purdue University](#)*

- 1 Author.
- 2 Title of source.
- 3 Title of container,
- 4 Other contributors,
- 5 Version,
- 6 Number,
- 7 Publisher,
- 8 Publication date,
- 9 Location.

Important!

Do NOT use...

- **Second-person pronouns** (you, your)
- **Contractions:** *can't = cannot*
- **Bland generic words:** good, great, better, okay, bad, nice
- **Vague words:** stuff, everyone, everything, sometimes
- **Hedge words:** sometimes, kind of, sort of
- **Hyperbolic words:** dramatic and overexaggerated

DO use..

- **Third person pronouns (they)** or nouns like American working class
- **Only use** first-person plural pronouns (we, our) possibly in the solution and conclusion, but very sparingly!
- **Strong and specific diction**
- **Proper title...**

The Fear of Failure: An Analysis of the Internalized Stress of American High School Students

ACTIVITY

Upload IWA to digital portfolio
Turnitin.com (DO NOT HIT “Submit Final”)

1. **Review the Similarity Report:** more than 50% is a major concern
2. **Review highlighting**
 - a. *Is every highlighted line attributed and/or internally cited with a Works cited entry?*
 - b. *Does verbatim information have “ ()?”*
 - c. *Is paraphrased information paraphrased enough? If solid highlighting, then you need to re-paraphrase without losing author’s meaning or just quote!*
 - d. *Revise & Make changes (bring a printed copy to class tomorrow)*
3. **Cross Check your internal citations against the Works Cited page.**