
Due: At the end of the unit

Prompt: In a paper of **five-seven pages**, write a Persuasive Argument in which you take a position on the issue of “racism 2.0” that is explored in Tim Wise’s *Colorblind*. **How should college and university institutions respond to persistent inequities in higher education admissions: should they continue to endorse colorblind universalism or should they shift to a new paradigm of “race-consciousness”?** Use specific details from the text, *1619 Project* resources, and supplemental readings to support your position.

Cite one or more of the assigned readings to argue your position. Also, draw on 1-3 vocabulary words from the **Exploring Word Choices for Describing Events** assignment to inform your position.

Common model for an argument essay

- I. Introduction and thesis statement
 - Make it clear to your audience immediately why they should be interested in the issue at stake in your paper.
- II. Background information
 - Explain the basic information that your readers will need to know to understand your position. You want to contextualize the issue, let readers know the different sides being argued, and declare your position on the issue (state your thesis).
- III. Reasons and evidence
 - Exemplify your position logically and effectively. Your evidence should be relevant and supportive of your point, not simply an interesting fact. It should come from credible sources. And it should especially be interrogated and linked to your central idea.
- IV. Opposing positions
 - Mention positions in opposition to your own and respond to them accordingly. This will not only show that you are knowledgeable of both sides of the issue but it will also build your credibility. This can appear in its own paragraph. Be strategic in where you want to address the other side of the argument.
- V. Concluding paragraph
 - Bring the essay to a logical end. You don’t want to cut your reader off abruptly. I would begin this conclusion by reminding readers why I am evaluating this subject so I can refresh their memory

This Essay Should Include:

Thesis Statement: The combination of an arguable claim and three logical reasons. Example: *Pesticides should be banned because they endanger the lives of workers, eat away at the earth's atmosphere, and are potentially fatal to consumers.*

Topic Sentences: Each paragraph should include its own central idea, which is a topic sentence. A topic sentence states a fact which your paragraph builds upon.

Support/Examples: Your choice of evidence (facts, details, quotes, etc...) and the logical order in which you justify your argument. Evidence should include at least three well-chosen examples of facts, statistics, quotations, paraphrasing to show that you are knowledgeable of your topic. Your evidence should be:

-Credible- it should come from reliable sources

-Qualified- remember to set up your evidence and also to connect it to your central idea. It should be in service to your argument, not simply an interesting and irrelevant fact.

Analysis: This answers the “how” and “why” questions that arise through various points of intrigue in your essay. The assertions you make need to be explained to your readers, showing how and why it's important.

Vocabulary: Draw on words, concepts, and ideas that you've explored throughout this unit from the readings, handouts, documentaries, and **Exploring Word Choices for Describing Events** .

Voice: Verbal power in writing is most effectively expressed through the use of words and phrases carefully chosen for their sound effects. Being in control of how you use rhyme, assonance, and repetition of key sounds and letters are exactly what I will be looking for to get a better feel for what kind of voice you are choosing.