

WRT 105
Argument Essay & Tee Shirt

Length:	5-6 pages
Points:	200
Paper Draft Due Date:	Thursday, November 19
Paper Final Due Date:	Thursday, December 3
Tee Shirt Due Date:	Thursday, December 3

Purpose

Thus far in this course, you have engaged with personal reflection and writing, readings from a variety of disciplines and about a variety of cultural issues, and analysis of visual culture. For the Argument Essay and tee shirt, you will continue to practice personal reflection and critical and analytical thinking. Specifically, you will investigate a social justice issue of your choosing and make an argument about that issue. This process will require you to find, evaluate, and integrate sources into an academic paper. You will also develop your understanding of rhetorical multimodal composition by creating a tee shirt that addresses the social justice issue. As a whole, this assignment moves you even further toward being prepared for WRT 205.

Audience

For the paper, you should imagine an audience of fellow scholars. Use appropriate diction and voice for such an audience. Be sure to consider how your audience might respond to your argument, and use that to educate your audience and identify and respond to possible **counterarguments**.

For the tee shirt, of course, you will imagine a broader public audience. What kinds of appeals do you want to make to this audience?

Assignment

For this assignment, you will write a 5-6 page essay about an issue of social justice that you are passionate about or that interests you in some way. You might write about race, gender, sexuality, socioeconomic status, immigration issues, access to education (standardized testing, cost), access to medical care, veterans' issues, etcetera. This paper is a "mini research paper" of sorts. While many research papers will require you to form at least a semi-original argument (which is what you would do in my WRT 205 course), this paper does not require that; instead, it requires you to argue a position or stance in relation to an issue and to support your stance with credible sources and consideration of counterarguments. Your paper should include:

- **at least five** credible secondary sources.
- **no more than one** quote
- APA style parenthetical citations and a References page
- appropriate background information
- consideration of implications of possible approaches to the issue (in other words consideration of the issues with the pro/con dynamic discussed in class)

You will then consider how to condense such a complex issue into a succinct activist message for a broadly defined public audience. As we will read in class, tee shirts are a common form of such messages and, therefore, you will create a tee shirt that follows the work you did in your paper. You may purchase a brand new tee shirt or a shirt from a thrift store. (You can take some friends and sing Macklemore on the way. WRT 105 is also about making memories.) If you have a shirt you are

no longer wearing, you can use that; if the shirt is not blank, please turn the shirt inside out. You can use patches, iron-on designs, fabric paint, and fabric markers. Please refrain from digital production.

- I will give you some time to work on tee shirts in class, and will bring some fabric paint and markers.

Evaluation Criteria

- *Appropriate and complete response to the assignment, including bulleted criteria
- *Inclusion of a clear thesis statement developed throughout the essay
- *Demonstrated understanding of rhetorical concepts discussed thus far
- *Evidence of critical thinking and reflection
- *Awareness of the specified audiences
- *Presentation of error-free texts (including spelling, grammar, and punctuation)
- *Use of appropriate title for your work
- *Evidence of creativity