

Writing Project 5: "Argument" Essay – Assignment Sheet
English 1010
Dr. Gregory Wright

“I am dissatisfied with myself for not having done justice to the subject—do not suspect me of false modesty—I mean to say, that had I allowed myself more time I could have written a better book in every sense of the word.”

-- Mary Wollstonecraft

This quotation is from one of Wollstonecraft’s letters concerning *The Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792). She wrote the text in six weeks, and it is nearly 300 pages long. A runner for her publisher sat on her doorstep and waited for the pages each day. The thoughts in the book are extraordinary yet in severe need of polish and direction. She knew this and admitted to the flaws. At the time of her death, she was attempting to (re)see the text as a novel, *The Wrongs of Woman: Or Maria*. While the novel is unfinished, the idea of Wollstonecraft’s (re)seeing of the *Vindication* is apparent. Now you have the chance to “complete” a (re)seeing, an opportunity not afforded to Wollstonecraft. Don’t you feel lucky?

What I am getting at here is that for assignment five you are required to (re)visit one of the earlier major writing projects and look at the piece of writing anew. You will be writing with persuasive purpose. Your assignment will be to take one of your previous essays and formulate an argument based upon the subject of that essay. For example, if I had written about the dilapidated tennis courts on campus for my description essay, I could take that subject and write an essay where I argue that the college should repair the courts. I could argue that the courts would provide another means for students to get exercise. I could argue that the courts would also benefit the larger community. I could argue that the benefits of repairing the courts would far outweigh the costs of the repairs. The point is that this second look at the assignment should bear little to no resemblance to the first except using the controlling purpose from assignment one. That is the key to (re)seeing. (Re)seeing is not revision. It is not dotting 'I's and crossing 'T's and changing a few phrases. It is about looking at the assignment again, but with a new perspective—a new argumentative perspective. Remember, **DO NOT CHANGE SUBJECTS. YOU WILL BE CHANGING YOUR METHODOLOGY, NOT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE WRITING.**

You should plan to build on the skills you have learned over the course of the semester and begin to develop the abilities necessary for critical inquiry. Be sure to include Specific, Concrete, Vivid, Illustrative Details (SCVIDs, for short) and to have a title that is thoughtful, unique, and interesting.

Due Date: 04/23/10

Style: MLA manuscript format

Length: 4-6 pages

Audience: An audience with basic knowledge of the problem or issue but who has not made up their minds as to which, if any, solution would be best

Assignment Objectives:

- To critically read and write with attention to purpose, audience, and context
- To develop an understanding of the modes and effectiveness of persuasion
- To understand the significance of a writer's "angle of vision" in writing persuasive arguments
- To write with purposeful stylistic choices and with an appropriate level of detail
- To use criteria as a means for evaluation and persuasion
- To revise through several drafts
- To use conventions of format, structure, and language
- To evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your own writing and those of others

Project File Requirements:

1. Two copies of your final document (1 electronic submission and one hard copy submission)
2. All copies of your drafts
3. Any other assigned exercises related to this essay
4. All of the peer reviews you receive

Submit the above items in your letter-size manila folder that has your name and the course and section number clearly written on the folder tab.