

Assignment 6: The Local Argument

Overview: For this assignment, you will be crafting a persuasive paper. The goal will be to persuade a specific, local audience to address a current local problem with the solution that you advocate. You will be drafting this persuasive piece as a letter to the appropriate audience. This assignment will challenge you to utilize numerous skills you have built up over the course of the semester, including focusing on a specific audience, stating a clear thesis, organizing purposeful paragraphs, developing points with support, and utilizing a variety of writing strategies (process, comparison, causal analysis, etc.).

Purpose: To convince your audience to consider your solution.

Audience: Your audience will need to be someone who has the ability to address the issue you bring up. For example, if you wanted to argue that a certain literature class should be offered, you wouldn't persuade Snow students. Instead, your audience would be the faculty in the English department since they have the ability to teach that course.

Topic: The topic is up to you, but it must be a local issue – either an issue on campus or in Ephraim. The topic must have significance for the local community. To reach an idea for your paper, create a list of things that you think could be improved, changed, added, or limited around the campus or in Ephraim. Just look around you – you could grab a copy of the *Snowdrift* or the *Sanpete Messenger*, attend a few events, or talk to fellow students and faculty for ideas of current issues.

Requirements:

- Your letter will need to focus on a specific audience and must connect the issue to him/her.
- Your paper will need to clearly define the problem, to present multiple logical solutions, to persuade for a particular solution, to provide reasons to support your solution, and evidence to support your reasons.
- You may use any variety of writing strategies to achieve your purpose, such as explaining a process, using a comparison, clarifying a definition, using a brief narrative to illustrate the issue, or analyzing potential ways to resolve the issue.
- You will need to complete personal research – either a survey or interview – to supplement your paper with information from a relevant source.

Details:

- The paper needs to be 5 pages long with 12 point font, double spaced.
- The final draft will be due April 8th
- This is worth 200 points or 20% of semester grade

RUBRIC: Local Argument Letter

Excellent:

Satisfactory:

Unsatisfactory:

<p>Purpose: You clearly state why you are writing to your audience. You convince your audience there is a problem and persuade a particular solution over others. The persuasion is effective due to careful consideration of audience, the demonstration of logical reasoning, and the inclusion of quality support.</p>	<p>You state why you are writing to your audience but could do so more clearly. You demonstrate the problem and persuade for a particular solution, but persuasion could be more effective.</p>	<p>You don't state why you are writing to your audience. The problem may be underdeveloped and your audience may not be convinced it is a real issue OR the persuasion regarding a solution is not effective due to unawareness of audience or lack of reasons and support.</p>
<p>Audience: The audience is specific and appropriate for your topic, common ground is established, the reasons and support are developed specifically for your audience, and the audience is connected to the problem and solution.</p>	<p>The audience is specific, appropriate for the topic, and common ground is established. At times, you write generally and your reasons and support may not be clearly linked to your audience. The audience could be better connected to the problem and solution.</p>	<p>The audience is general or is inappropriate for addressing the topic. The argument doesn't focus on the specific audience consistently so some reasons and support are ineffective. The problem and solution are not made significant to the audience.</p>
<p>Support: Your problem and solution are well defined through quality support (personal research, examples, personal experience, etc.). You persuade effectively for a particular solution using reasons that are backed with support that appeal to your audience.</p>	<p>The problem and solution are stated well. You have reasons but they could receive stronger support development. The personal research could have been designed/used more effectively to bolster your argument.</p>	<p>The problem and solution are not thoroughly developed with support. They are simply opinions or are stated without any support to appeal to your audience. The personal research is not used in the letter.</p>
<p>Organization: The paper follows organization strategies discussed in class and the draft follows letter conventions (pgs. 50-51 in AWR). There are clear topic sentences and transitions to guide your audience.</p>	<p>The paper follows the organization and letter conventions pretty well but could benefit from stronger topic sentences and transitions for your audience to see the structure more clearly.</p>	<p>The paper doesn't have logical organization OR doesn't follow letter conventions. The topic sentences and transitions are lacking so it is difficult for your audience to follow your points.</p>
<p>Conventions/Style: The draft is free of errors and has a tone appropriate for your audience.</p>	<p>The draft has a few errors but the tone is appropriate for your audience.</p>	<p>The draft has several distracting errors. The tone may be inappropriate for your audience.</p>