Research-Based Classical Argument Essay & Speech

Requirements

➢ Interesting argumentative topic (Mr. Reid's approval required)
➢ MLA Format
➢ 1,000-2,000 words
➢ Works Cited page with *minimum* five (5) good references
➢ Submit to www.turnitin.com *and* print out a copy!
➢ Speech is 2-3 minutes, memorized

Grading

➢ Essay, References, & Works Cited Page—500 writing points
➢ Speech—200 speaking points
➢ Submit to www.turnitin.com *and* print out a copy!
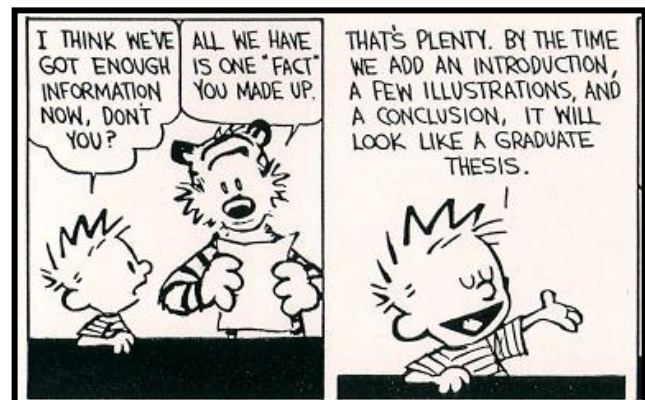➢ Rubrics on reverse side

Do's

➢ Use statistical evidence
➢ Use inductive reasoning & syllogisms *(Specific facts that point to a conclusion. Ex: Socrates is a man; all men are mortal; therefore, Socrates is mortal.)*
➢ Use deductive logic *(General principles or commonplaces that point to a conclusion. Ex: Republicans tend to be pro second amendment; the car in front of me has a National Rifle Association sticker; therefore, the person driving the car is probably a Republican.)*
➢ Anticipate and refute major counterclaims
➢ Appeal to ethics/morals *(Make sure it's a commonplace.)*
➢ Rely on the ethos of a minimum of five (5) credible sources:
   1) From an unbiased data collector.
   2) Referencing professionals with extensive experience *(college professors, well-known publishers).*
   3) Plentiful citations referencing statistics, facts, and/or other professionals.

Do Not's

➢ Use logical fallacies
➢ Rely on anecdotal evidence
➢ Rely completely on *your* ethos *(You should rely on professionals' ethos)*
➢ *Appear* to be biased *(Even if you are!)*
➢ Commit the worst logical sin ever—what Mr. Reid calls the *Bacon Fallacy*: Arguing that something cannot be argued. *Ex: Bacon is the perfect breakfast food; that cannot be argued. It demonstrates a complete disregard for logic to assume there are no actual reasons that support or refute a claim; this type of reasoning will earn you __zero__ points on your essay, despite the fact that most cultures find bacon very tasty.*

Don't do this either!

Research-Based Classical Argument Essay Grading Rubric of the Century

Category	Ineffective	Developing	Competent	Proficient	Advanced
Interesting introduction & conclusion	**0-29** No attempt at an interesting introduction & conclusion offers no call to action	**30-34** Cliché or little attempt to catch attention; vague & impractical call to action	**35-39** Attempts to catch attention & vague or unconvincing call to action	**40-44** Somewhat catches attention & mostly vague or unconvincing call to action	**45-50** Catches attention & leaves with a practical *call to action*
Logos	**0-59** Little supporting logos; several gaps in reasoning or fallacies	**60-69** Some supporting logos; a few gaps in reasoning or fallacies	**70-79** Logos is somewhat convincing; may have weaknesses in some reasoning	**80-89** Logos supports thesis, but not as convincing as it should be	**90-100** Prioritizes logical steps needed to support thesis; reasoning is sound
Counterclaims Rebuttals	**0-29** No attempt to refute counterclaims or flawed logic	**30-34** Presents unimportant counterclaims and/or refutes poorly	**35-39** Presents somewhat important counterclaims & attempts to refute	**40-44** Presents mostly important counterclaims & refutes	**45-50** Prioritizes most important counterclaims & refutes insightfully
English Conventions	**0-29** >10 errors	**30-34** 6-9 errors	**35-39** 4-5 errors	**40-44** 1-3 errors	**45-50** no errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or capitalization
MLA Format	**0-29** >4 errors	**30-34** 3 errors	**35-39** 2 errors	**40-44** 1 error	**45-50** Double spaced, proper heading, proper header, left-aligned, etc.
Word Count	**0-29** >1000	**NA**	**NA**	**40-44** <2000	**45-50** 1000-2000
Works Cited in MLA	**0-29** >4 errors	**30-34** 3 errors	**35-39** 2 errors	**40-44** 1 error	**45-50** No errors
Citations	**0-29** Claims are not backed by sources	**30-34** Few claims are backed by sources; approx.	**35-39** Some claims are backed by a variety of sources; approx. 1-2 per ¶	**40-44** Most claims are backed by a variety of quality sources; approx. 3-5 per ¶	**45-50** Every claim is backed by a variety of quality sources; approx.. 3-5 per ¶
Ethos of references	**0-29** No references provided	**30-34** 1-2 biased, questionably professional, and/or references cite no sources	**35-39** 3-4 somewhat unbiased & professional; references have few references	**40-44** 5 mostly unbiased, professional, & references have some references	**45-50** 5+ unbiased, professional, & references have references

Total Score: _____ / 500

Speech Rubric

Category	Ineffective	Developing	Competent	Proficient	Advanced
Introduction & Conclusion	**0-14** No attempt at an interesting introduction & conclusion offers no call to action	**15-16** Cliché or little attempt to catch attention; vague & impractical call to action	**17-19** Attempts to catch attention & vague or unconvincing call to action	**20-22** Somewhat catches attention & vague or unconvincing call to action	**23-25** Catches attention & leaves with a practical *call to action*
Memorized	**0-14** Little rehearsal evident; very choppy delivery.	**15-16** Not clearly rehearsed, choppy delivery.	**17-19** Appears somewhat rehearsed, somewhat smooth delivery.	**20-22** Appears mostly rehearsed, mostly smooth delivery.	**23-25** Clearly rehearsed, smooth delivery.
Presence & Volume	**0-14** No attempt to use effective voice inflection & pauses for emphasis. Too quiet to hear.	**15-16** Ineffective attention-grabbing inflection & pauses for emphasis. Sporadically loud enough to hear over the air conditioner in the back of class.	**17-19** Somewhat attention-grabbing voice inflection & pauses for emphasis. Somewhat loud enough to hear over the air conditioner in the back of class.	**20-22** Mostly attention-grabbing voice inflection & pauses for emphasis. Mostly loud enough to hear over the air conditioner in the back of class.	**23-25** Attention-grabbing voice inflection & pauses for emphasis. Loud enough to hear over the air conditioner in the back of class.
Ethos	**0-14** No references provided	**15-16** 1-2 biased, questionably professional, and/or references cite no sources	**17-19** 1-2 somewhat unbiased & professional; references have few references	**20-22** 3 mostly unbiased, professional, & references have some references	**23-25** 3+ unbiased; professional; references have references
Logos	**0-29** Little supporting logos; several gaps in reasoning or fallacies	**30-34** Some supporting logos; a few gaps in reasoning or fallacies	**35-39** Logos is somewhat convincing; may have weaknesses in some reasoning	**40-44** Logos supports thesis, but not as convincing as it should be	**45-50** Prioritizes logical steps needed to support thesis; reasoning is sound
Time	**0-29** <1 min	**30-34** 1-1:30 min	**35-39** 1:30-2 min	**40-44** >3 min	**45-50** 2-3 min

Total Score: _____ / 200