

## Persuasive Essay Assignment Guidelines

You will be responsible for writing a persuasive essay. The PowerPoint notes and discussion from class last week will prove to be of great assistance in drafting your assignment.

Each student would choose a topic randomly from a box. Some of you will be arguing point that are opposite of one another. For example, one student maybe arguing that “all schools should have uniforms” while another student in class argues that “all schools should NOT have uniforms.”

You will be provided with an outline to assist you in creating your essay. You are required to have at least THREE arguments that will support your claim, ONE counter argument, and at least TWO credible sources. Please keep in mind that Wikipedia is not a source. Think about scholarly news organizations such as the New York Times online. Also, remember that plagiarism or any copying directly from the Internet will not be tolerated and result in an automatic zero. To compete your works cited page, please use EasyBib.com for proper MLA format.

You will have one day in class with an outline of your essay and the computer cart. The next two days will be spent in the computer lab for continued research and drafting of your essay. You are to have your Simon type and submitted it through Google Classroom by **Sunday, January 22nd at 11:59pm.**

Formatting:

Your essay is to have VERY SPECIFIC formatting or will result in points being taken off from your final grade. The essay should be at least TWO PAGES typed and double spaced. You may only use Times New Roman font, 12-point font. Therefore, the assignment should look identical to the example below:

Bryson Tiller

Ms. Sampson

8<sup>th</sup> Period

January 18, 2017

### To Uniform or Not to Uniform

This is the introductory paragraph of the essay. Notice that it is being typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font. Also, my heading is appropriately located at the top of the page followed by the title of my essay. There are no additional spaces present. This essay will be at least two pages in length, Blah, blah, blah... ☺

Beyonce Knowles

Ms. Sampson

8<sup>th</sup> Period

January 18, 2017

### Proposal to Shut Down the Screen

A group of parents, and some teachers, have made a proposal to the school board. They would like the school to participate in the national “Shut Down Your Screen Week.” A week without any electronics is what parents believe the school needs. Technology is a big contradiction. It is useful with all the tools it has, yet it can be a distraction, or addicting. Our school should participate in the national “Shut Down Your Screen Week” because of the following issues with technology.

“Based on a representative survey of 2,500 Americans...those who used social media had more close confidants,” says Keith Hampton. Facebook, Twitter, and other social media allow people to connect with each other and have social interactions, but through the web. The web, or a phone, that allows people to be more social is a major issue today. Kids, especially high school students, feel no need to talk to a friend in person. They can just text them. The problem with Facebook, or texting, is that people interact differently than they would in person. Cyberbullying is one of the biggest issues with the web today. People say things on the web that they wouldn’t say to the person’s face. Bullies feel safe when hidden behind a screen. Whether or not the survey of 2,500 people was accurate, it still did not account for the differences in interactions for media and in person. Having no electronics for a week would allow students to see that difference.

Although technology allows students to do research, that research isn't helping students to do strategic and logical thinking. "What really makes us intelligent isn't our ability to find lots of information quickly. It's our ability to think deeply about that information," says Nicholas Carr, author of the book *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains*. Brain scientists have researched and found out that deep thinking only happens with a calm mind. "The greater our concentration, the richer our thoughts," Nicholas Carr says. The internet is a useful search engine, but does not allow students to go deeply into thought. Google allows people to find anything by the click of a button. This isn't the way students should learn. Nicholas Carr says, "If you're really interested in developing your mind, you should turn off your computer and your cellphone – and start thinking. Really thinking."

Technology can be distracting, but most of all it is addictive. Scientists say that using email, texting, or searching the web can change how someone thinks or behaves. "The stimulation [of technology use] provokes excitement – a dopamine squirt – that researchers say can be addictive. In its absence, people feel bored," says Matt Richtel of the New York Times. Addiction to technology may not compare to the addiction of certain drugs, but being a student who is addicted to something that creates different social interactions, and doesn't allow deep thought, could be very bad. "In 2008, people consumed three times as much [technology] each day as they did in 1960," Matt says. This rate has already increased, and a break from it wouldn't be a bad thing. Researchers worry that constant digital stimulation like this creates attention problems for children with brains that are still developing, who already struggle to set priorities and resist impulses," Matt says. Students in high school, or even in college, have brains that are still developing. A week off from the technology would allow these students to develop skills, with their growing brains, that could be used instead of electronics.

Our school should start participating in the national “Shut Down Your Screen Week.” It would allow students to see the difference in social interactions of electronics and in person. The week would allow students to go into deep thought and understand subjects and ideas that Google cannot. Lastly, technology is addictive and a break is what students need to understand the consequences of it being addictive. By our school doing this national movement, we could change the way school is taught to better help each and every student.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Typed Persuasive Essay Rubric**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>0 points</b> Did not attempt	<b>1 point</b> Made <b>some</b> attempt	<b>2 points</b> Made a <b>good</b> attempt	<b>3 points</b> Demonstrated <b>mastery</b>
1. Began with an attention catcher.				
2. Stated a position and kept it.				
3. Previewed three arguments in the introduction.				
4. Developed one argument.				
5. Elaborated and explained that argument				
6. Developed second argument.				
7. Elaborated and explained that argument				
8. Developed third argument.				
9. Elaborated and explained that argument.				
10. Developed counter claim.				
11. Ended with a proper conclusion.				
12. Cited at least TWO credible sources.				
13. Used Times New Roman, 12 point font. Double spaced. 1 in margins.				
14. <b>PROOFREAD FOR ERRORS.</b> Free of spelling and grammar issues.				
15. Used proper heading in the top left corner of the document:  Name Teacher Period Date				

Total: /45

## How to Create a Works Cited Page

Projects and research papers must end with a Works Cited page. This page is where you can give credit to the sources (books, **photos**, encyclopedias, websites, etc.) that you cited or used in your assignment. Follow these simple guidelines to put together a complete Works Cited page.

1. The heading “Works Cited” must be centered at the top of the page.
2. Your list of sources needs to be alphabetized.
3. If your entry takes up more than one line, indent the second line.
4. Not sure what to write? **Visit EasyBib.com**

Example:

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### Works Cited

Arnett, Bill. “The U.S. Civil War Center Web Site.” May 10, 2010.  
<[www.cwc.lsu.edu/bullrun.html](http://www.cwc.lsu.edu/bullrun.html)>.

Ballard, Robert D. Exploring the Titanic. Scholastic Press, 1988.

“Franklin, Benjamin.” The World Book Encyclopedia. 2000.

Galante, Nick. *Hawaii*. June 2002. *Flickr Photo Sharing*. August 4, 2012.

Haverkamp, Beth. “Travels with the Monarch Butterfly.”  
National Geographic Kids April 2006: p. 23-25.

“Sleep.” Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia. Scholastic, 2006. May 10, 2010.

## **Dos and Don'ts for Persuasive Essays**

### **The Don'ts:**

1. Do NOT start a paragraph/essay with: "I will now tell you...!" "This essay/paragraph is about..."
2. Do NOT use first person (I, me, my, our, we, etc.)
3. Do NOT use the words "my essay" "my paragraph" You shouldn't be referring to these by name in your writing piece
4. Do NOT use second person (you, your, etc.)
5. Do NOT address your essay "Dear School Board. . ." etc. It's not a letter!
6. Do NOT use "text message" language "LOL, u, ☺" etc.
7. Do NOT use colored, large, or "interesting" fonts
8. Do NOT use lined or colored paper for your final draft
9. Do NOT make claims that you cannot substantiate. In other words, don't lie!
10. Do NOT skip an extra line between paragraphs

### **The Dos:**

1. DO be sure to have a thesis sentence that clearly states your position and reasons
2. DO use interesting facts and examples that support your statements
3. DO make sure that each of your body paragraphs relates to one of the reasons in your thesis
4. DO write in third person
5. DO write out contractions: "There are" instead of they're, "it is" instead of it's
6. DO write out numbers under twenty (seven, thirteen, etc.)
7. DO write in Times New Roman, 12 point font in black ink on white paper with 1 inch margins and double line spacing, left justified
8. DO give credit any time you use another source's words
9. DO indent each paragraph