

## Essay 2: Argue an Issue Assignment Sheet

### Introduction of Assignment

The process of arguing an issue can be quite complex. Your objective in an essay such as this is to enlighten readers by highlighting a problem that exists and argue for different ways to approach an issue. You must explain how and why you have drawn your conclusions, provide specific supporting evidence to explain your position and convince your readers of its soundness.

This essay asks you to consider two different perspectives of an issue (in this case, the topic is education). You will read two contrasting articles related to the education issue you choose. You could pick governmental control over school lunches for example. You would select two academic articles to compare and contrast. You will choose the ways the articles present their information similarly and how they differ. Then, you will write a concluding paragraph stating which article does a better job convincing you and why.

### The Details

Your essay should be approximately three pages double-spaced in length. You'll need a header and title on the **first page only**.

You will begin by researching an educational issue. This can be as diverse as our school lunch sample to prayer in schools to year-round education. The point is that this topic should center on education in some way. You can limit it to public, private, two-year college, or four-year university—the choice is yours. We are going to watch the film *Waiting for Superman* in class which might give you some ideas for how you can approach an education topic. In addition, I am going to provide you several readings pertinent to education so that we can discuss and “test out” certain topics. You are required to read your two articles critically, looking specifically for the main arguments the authors present and how they present it rhetorically. Your goal is to compare and contrast in this essay, so you will want to make sure that your articles are similar enough, yet different enough to write about.

You may include in your essay specific quotes from the articles that you feel are representative of the arguments raised, but you do not want the quotes to be the sole focus of your essay. I am more interested in how you present the ideas. You want to analyze both articles equally so that you have a reasonable basis for comparison and contrast. Find the details and examples that you will need to support your points.

You need a reason to place two subjects side by side—one that your audience would find most compelling and want to read more about. The goal in this essay is not only to present the comparisons and contrasting elements, but also to show your reader which **you** believe is more effective and why.

### Articles

Select two academic articles from the Lone Star College Libraries Website:

<http://www.lonestar.edu/library/article-databases.htm>. We will discuss how to use the databases in

class. Two databases that I find most helpful are Opposing Viewpoints and ERIC. ERIC is an educational database that contains many great articles pertaining to education.

Make sure to cite these articles in your essay using MLA format.

***Waiting for Superman***

We will watch the film *Waiting for Superman* in class, so it is important that you attend class on the days we watch. We will have directed questions that you will answer as part of your prewriting for Essay 2.