

Samples Claims and Instructions for Essay #1, Fall 2006

Below are some actual claims from students from last year based on some of the themes in *Everything's An Argument*. Check the syllabus for sections that were assigned on the syllabus up through this week, but also check the second half of the book for the sections by theme of collected essays from which to get other possible ideas for your paper's topic that is due for workshop this Friday. On Wednesday this week, we will look at some sample student papers, but don't wait until Wednesday to choose your topic and begin prewriting and drafting of the paper.

Sample Student Claims

Like Myriam Marquez, and Andrea Lo, two authors who have written on language, culture, and the diversity it brings to the United States, I too have gone through "tough times" in deciding whether or not to accept or reject my culture.

There are people who believe that English is the universal language and that everybody should speak it. This may be true, but for those who don't speak it and are trying to learn it, they express themselves in mandatory terms in order to be understood; if they were to speak their minds in their own root language, they would not only be understood, but also be felt.

Men and women alike are now being the targets of propaganda and being imposed upon with a false idea of attractiveness.

Donating eggs for reproductive purposes is wrong.

A female's decision to donate eggs to finance her college education is her business.

Stereotypes are pointed out to us by a variety of sources like newspaper articles and television--we are not born with them.

By examining John Leo's essay with James Sterngold's article, we see that the subject of racial stereotypes is not simply a black and white issue.

Even though females have benefited from Title IX in sports programs, they still experience more inequalities than do men.

Paper Requirements:

1. All out-of-class essays must be between 600 and 1200 words in length, formatted double-spaced in Times 12 point font, MLA style.
2. They all must present a claim at the end of an introductory paragraph and topic sentence claims to begin each body paragraph.
3. Students must complete an outline before the graded draft due date to better organize the content.
4. The evidence for the argument will be taken from essays in *Everything's An Argument*; anything on the syllabus through the current week or anything from the themed sections in the last third of the book can be used, and at least two essays or articles of support must be used.
5. Students will use direct quotations around quotes used for evidence, cite page numbers in parenthetical MLA style for sources used, and create a Works Cited page to be handed in with the graded version.
6. Papers will be graded for content, development of ideas, grammar and punctuation, documentation of sources, etc.