



WR122
English Composition: Argument
Fall 2016

Instructor: Damien Weaver
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Location: Online
Meeting times: N/A
CRN: 26054
Credit Hours: 3

Course Description

Welcome to Writing 122! This course is the second term of a three-term sequence in college composition, introducing you to the writing of persuasive essays—those which aim to convince a specific audience to agree with our facts, share our values, accept our argument and conclusions, or adopt our way of thinking.

Students will write essays that logically argue a thesis and effectively respond to outside texts. Throughout the course, writing will be approached as a process that includes guided discussion to generate ideas, prewriting, drafting, revision and finally careful proofreading. Assigned readings will require students to analyze, summarize, and synthesize secondary sources addressing a variety of issues.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to improve your persuasive skills in the following areas:

- Understanding arguments, including critical thinking and reasoning.
- Analyzing arguments, including detecting any missing elements and evaluating the effectiveness.
- Creating written arguments: planning, drafting, and revising, researching.
- Developing a repertoire of persuasive strategies, including deductive and inductive reasoning.
- Avoiding logical fallacies.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of WR 121.

Required Texts

Wood and Miller, *Perspectives on Argument*, 8th ed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments:

THREE PAPERS: Over the course of the term you will write three major essays aimed at developing specific critical thinking and writing skills—an Argument Analysis and Response, a Position Paper, and a Rogerian or Personal Argument. The Analysis paper will help you learn to analyze and evaluate the arguments that other people direct at you, and the Position and Rogerian argument papers will teach you two different modes of persuading or influencing others. Specific guidelines for each essay assignment will be provided separately, but they will all follow these parameters: 3-5 pages in length, 12 pt. font, double-spaced, proper MLA formatting and source citation.

Reading Response/Summaries and Preparatory Assignments: Each major essay will entail a significant amount of informal summary/response exercises to readings from *Perspectives* and various other texts. There will also be a significant amount of preparatory writing in the form of multiple drafts.

Peer Feedback: In addition to the preparatory work for each paper, you will be asked to give feedback by way of discussion forum on your classmates' writing and ideas at various stages in the drafting process.

COURSE GRADE: Your final grade for the semester will be based on the following breakdown:

Writing Assignments	Points	Due Date(s)
Essay 1	100	16 October
Essay 2	100	13 November
Essay 3	100	7 December
Reading Responses/Preparatory Assignments and Peer Feedback	300	
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS:	600	

Late Work: Late papers will lose half a grade, late homework assignments will lose 20% credit, and both kinds may be turned in up to a maximum of a week late unless you contact me about your circumstances.

Plagiarism Policy: All work must be your own. You must document all appropriate quotations, paraphrases, data, images, etc. using either MLA or APA format. Failure to cite and document your sources will result in a loss of credit, ranging from a drop of one grade to an F, depending on the severity of the plagiarism. Turning in a paper (or significant portions of a paper) that someone else has written or that has been copied off the Internet will result in no credit for the paper, and your name will be given to the Academic Dean. Mistakes and unintentional plagiarism will not result in such penalties, but in my asking you to correct them.

Disability Statement: If you have emergency medical information for your instructor, need special arrangements to evacuate campus, or have a documented disability, please meet with

me no later than the first week of the term to discuss your needs and present your ODS accommodation letter.

LBCC Comprehensive Statement of Nondiscrimination:

LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws.
(for further information <http://po.linnbenton.edu/BPsandARs/>)