

Controversial Issue Essay
Honors English 9
Ms. Mitchell

FIRST DRAFT DUE DATE: Tuesday, 11/30

Take your assigned position on your controversial issue and compose an essay of 500-800 words arguing your point of view.

Be sure to:

1. **Explain the question.** Begin by stating the question you are answering. Why is it important? What depends upon the answer? Is there a problem that should be solved? Why should others share your worries or agree with your ideas for change? Do you have a stake in the solution to this problem?
2. **Make a definite claim or proposal.** Be specific, and make your claim simple at first. You can elaborate on it later in your essay.
3. **Develop your arguments fully.** Do not use every argument you can think of. Use only the strongest. Then explore them fully, using good premises to support your conclusions. Use the strongest, least biased sources. Choose the type of argument carefully (Example; Authority; Analogy; Cause; Deductive) to make your case.
4. **Consider objections.** Anticipate skeptical questions. Consider the disadvantages or your proposals and be prepared to counter opposition.
5. **Consider alternatives.** You must show that your solution is better than other solutions, that your interpretation is better than other interpretations.

Create an outline! It helps!

Remember to:

1. **Keep the introduction brief.**
2. **Give your arguments one at a time.** One per paragraph at the most, please! You may use one argument per several paragraphs, of course.
3. **Clarify, clarify, clarify!** What seems obvious to you may not be to your reader. Explain key concepts, why your premises are valid, and how they relate to each other and support your conclusion.
4. **Consider the arguments on the other side.** Briefly develop them, but show how yours are better.
5. **Don't claim more than you have shown.** End without prejudice, perhaps considering the objections in your final conclusion.