

Essay 1 — Evaluation Argument

My opinion, my conviction, gains infinitely in strength and success the moment a second mind has adopted it.

—Novalis

"Everyone of them words rang true / And glowed like burnin' coal / Pourin' off of every page / Like it was written in my soul / From me to you."

—Bob Dylan, in "Tangled Up in Blue"

Topics and Rhetorical Purposes

For this essay, you'll analyze and evaluate a specific person, place, or thing of your choice: your father or mother or sister or brother; your favorite restaurant; your high school; your favorite elementary, junior high, or high school teacher; the best or worst coach you've ever had; your best friend . . .

There are many possible topics, so don't hesitate to ask me if you need help or would like suggestions. Experience has shown me that the best evaluation arguments almost always deal with a tangible topic: a real place, a real person, etc. Do not plan, however, to write a book review, a movie review, etc. Let's talk if you're confused or have questions.

One of your primary goals is to demonstrate that your topic is <major and minor claims>.

Submission Procedures

For the first submission of this assignment, you'll turn in an electronic copy (via Google Classroom). I will read and grade this submission, recording a provisional grade in the grade book. After I return your graded copy, with my comments, you will have the rest of the semester to revise the essay. Then, on the last day of class--Thursday, November 12--you will turn in your revised copy. The grade for the revised copy, the one submitted in November, is the grade that affects your final course grade.

Other Relevant Criteria

- Weight: 7 (0-84 points)

- Length: 4-6 pages (1" margins, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font or its equivalent)
- If you'd like to add images to essay, that is encouraged but not required. If you do add images, the following guidelines apply:
 - Ideally, they would be images you have taken yourself (or from a friend, etc, used with their permission).
 - Or, if you don't own the images yourself and/or have permission from the owner(s), you could use images from a site Pexels (<https://pexels.com/>), Pixabay (<https://pixabay.com/>), or Unsplash (<https://unsplash.com/>). These sites all offer images free for use.
- See handouts and/or student samples for examples of the correct format for the written argument.
- Highlighted Criteria: data/evidence (specific information, reasons, examples, etc.); major and minor claims; transitions; organization; clarity; originality; and creativity
- No outside sources are to be used. You need to be familiar enough with the topic to construct and support your own claims. If you feel you need to include information from someone (a friend, for instance) or somewhere (a website, for instance), talk to me early in your process. Do not hand in a paper with information from somewhere else without checking with me first.
- You can definitely use "I" in this assignment.
- We'll talk in class about writing focused, unified claims; offering specific, relevant evidence; and using "signposts" to move readers through your work in a smooth fashion. So, pay particular attention to these areas as you write and revise your essay.

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