

First and Last Name
ENG 100
Assignment #3: Room for Debate
Due:

Assignment #3: *Room for Debate*

Prompt: Please visit the *New York Times Room for Debate* online forum and select one topic for your research-based argumentative essay. Please reference EACH opinion of the *Room for Debate* experts who provide their arguments for and against the issue at hand. I encourage you to include additional outside materials and to use MLA format for your citations.

Purpose: Persuade.

Audience: Your primary audience is people who disagree with your position on the topic. Your secondary audience is your teacher.

Style: This is a research-based argumentative essay. When referencing the opinions of the experts who contribute to your chosen *Room for Debate* topic, please use proper citation techniques such as summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting. Your paper should have an introduction (that ends with a thesis statement), a body (with multiple paragraphs that provide topic sentences), and a conclusion.

Focus: In your introduction, please mention the title of the *Room for Debate* topic and summarize the overall argument the experts are having. Once you reach the end of the introduction, please include a thesis statement that communicates your position on the topic. From there, you should use expert opinion to support your own ideas about the topic. You can choose to focus on one particular argument that one expert is making or you could focus on the topic at large and address each of the main issues. Or you could focus on two or three main ideas. You choose the focus that is most meaningful to you.

Thesis: Your thesis statement must be clearly written at the end of the introduction and should communicate the focus of your essay. Please include a topic and position. Here are a few sample thesis statements (do not copy and paste these into your essay; create your own version):

- Homeless people in America should receive free government housing because it is humane, it will cost taxpayers less money, and it will create job. [Note to class: In this instance, the three main supporting points would structure the body of the essay. I would suggest that you begin each body paragraph with a strong topic sentence, such as...First, the American government should treat each of its citizens with the type of **humanity** that we claim is the hallmark of our country's democracy.]
- The process of fracking should be outlawed in America because it is damaging the environment and it is exploiting folks who are living in poverty.

Rebuttal: Please include opposing opinions in your text. Also, be sure to respond to these opposing opinions.

Process: To begin, *Think On Paper* about the issues surrounding your decision: freewrite, list, cluster, discuss, and read other expert opinions to generate ideas and answer the following questions. Over the last month:

- What topics have you heard or read on the news that you want to know more about?
- What belief system (religion, politics, feminism) do you think people have the wrong idea about?
- What area of your life are you most passionate about? Write a paper about it.
- What gets you mad? What do you hate? Research and write about it.
- What is the one thing you want our next president to change in America?

Product: This essay must be around 1000 words and formatted as follows: 12-point font, double-spacing. Please include an original title centered at the top of the essay. This doesn't count as an original title: *Room for Debate*. We will use these criteria to evaluate your essay:

- _____ Your essay is well organized, descriptive, and analytical.
- _____ Your essay explains the topic of your essay by mentioning the *Room for Debate* discussion.
- _____ Your essay has a clear thesis statement at the end of the introduction.
- _____ Your essay references EACH of the expert opinions provided in the *Room for Debate* discussion.
- _____ Your writing is appropriate and compelling for your audience.
- _____ Your essay includes reflective “telling” moments located between the showing scenes.
- _____ Your essay is around 1000 words.
- _____ Your essay shows signs of careful proofreading, with minimal grammatical or spelling errors.