PRO/PRO ARGUMENTS

Two essays, each taking a different position on your topic

Length: 800-1,000 words *each* (1600-2000 words total)

Reseach: 12 credible sources

Audience: People who are inclined to agree with the argument being made

Sources: A total of 15. The 10 you used for "What Are the Issues?" may be included

Description

In "What Are the Issues?" you identified the main issues that people have disagreed about in the broad controversy that interests you. Now, in the Pro/Pro Arguments, you will articulate two opposing positions on the controversy. In fact, you will write two short arguments, each supporting a different position, to two separate audiences, each inclined to agree with your position. The Pro/Pro Arguments are similar to pro/con arguments extept that, instead of arguing *against* a position, both papers will argue *in favor* of the propositions they advance. **The two positions must disagree with each other enough that the same person could not agree with both sides.** The approach of each argument should be to provide *positive* support for the position it takes.

Avoid articulating contradictory should/should not positions like the following:

Pro: South Carolina should lower the drinking age for people in the military.
Con: South Carolina should not lower the drinking age for people in the military.

Pro: A giant meteor caused the dinosaurs' extinction.
Con: A giant meteor did not cause the dinosaurs' extinction.

Pro: The Geneva Convention should apply to the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.
Con: The Geneva Convention should not apply to the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.

Instead, formulate two positive arguments:

Pro #1: South Carolina should lower the drinking age for people in the military.
Pro #2: Underage members of the military should be allowed to drink alcohol, but only on military bases.

Pro #1: A giant meteor caused the dinosaurs' extinction.
Pro #2: A large volcanic eruption caused the dinosaurs' extinction.

Pro #1: The Geneva Convention should apply to the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.
Pro #2: A special set of rules should apply to the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.

As you write your arguments, it may help to imagine yourself as two different people. Suppose, for example, your overall topic is the drinking age in South Carolina. To help you imagine the arguments that could be made in favor of lowering it for members of the military, you could pretend you are an 18-year-old private in the U.S. Army. To understand why the change might be restricted to military bases, imagine yourself as the parent of an underaged member of the military.

Adapted from *Introduction to Academic Writing* ISBN 0536839360

Research

For this paper, you need a minimum of fifteen sources in your bibliography. At the very end of both papers, include on Works Cited page correctly listing (in MLA Style) all of the sources you consulted in both papers.

Audience and Purpose

Why write to an audience that already tends to agree with you? Most arguments do not change readers' minds; they are usually aimed at 'insiders' who already agree. Their purpose is to strengthen or revive an audience's adherence to a position and perhaps even to motivate an audience to take action. This will be your rhetorical situation in each pro argument. Because your audience will already be inclined to agree, extensive refutation will be unnecessary. Instead, focus on providing positive arguments that they would appreciate and/or sympathize with.

Arrangement Advice

As you organize your arguments and support, think of the potential effects of different sequences of arguments on your readers. How will you establish the importance of your topic? Where in your introduction will you place your thesis? Should your strongest argument come first? Should it come as the clincher? Should you make your strongest point in the middle of your paper? The possibilities are vast; the point is to think through your sequence. Give special consideration to how you will seize your audience's attention and how to develop strong, positive arguments with support in a short paper.

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