

OLE Core Attribute:

Writing and Rhetoric (WRR) ILO #2: Develop a research-driven project.

### **Portfolio 3: Persuasive Essay on a Social Issue**

For this assignment, you will conduct research and write a persuasive essay around an issue or topic you feel strongly or passionate about that are related to the central themes and issues of this course. If writing is indeed fighting, you will use your words to fight against harmful images, narratives, logics, and ideas that work to sustain, justify, and legitimate racial inequality and the subjugation and oppression of historically marginalized groups (e.g., BIPOC, 2SLGBTQIA+, disabled, etc.). You will write to help bring about some aspect of social change, as we use the power of writing to destroy “the house that racism built” and build a new “house.”

You will write a **persuasive essay**, where you take a stance on a policy, practice, law, or issue that either reinforces or challenges systems of oppression. Topics may include issues around:

- Policing, Mass Incarceration, Surveillance vs. Abolition #DefundthePolice •  
Reparations & #LandBack efforts
- Ceasefire in Palestine
- Education (e.g., anti-CRT laws, charter schools, private vs. public) •  
Healthcare (private vs. universal) and Reproductive Rights
- Voting Rights
- Segregation and Gentrification
- Representations in Media and Culture

Some questions to consider as you develop your analysis and argument:

- What’s the primary question being addressed by this policy/practice/issue?
- What’s the driving motivation/conflict/problem behind this policy/practice/issue?
- What are the underlying assumptions that each “side” of this issue is bringing to the table?
- What’s your position/stance? In other words, what’s your answer to the primary questions being addressed? (This becomes the ingredients for your thesis) And why? (This becomes your ingredients for your supporting evidence) • What assumptions are you bringing to the table?

**NOTE: You must get my approval of your topic by Thurs, April 18<sup>th</sup> (Week 11).**

## **GUIDELINES:**

- This is not a summary of an issue but an **analysis** that leads to an argument you are making about the issue.
- You need to **take a position** (a.k.a., answer to the primary question/thesis) and persuade the reader of your position.
- This paper should have an introduction; a body that supports your thesis with smooth transitions and effective, concise sentences; and a conclusion that states the significance of your position/interpretation.
- As always, please underline your thesis statement.
- As always, you need to apply what you've been learning; therefore, please integrate at least three (3) different course materials using MLA style.
- Conducting outside research is needed in order to write your essay. A minimum of 2-3 credible sources must be cited in your paper.
- Page number requirements: 5-6 pages (not including Works Cited page)

**EVALUATION:** 50 points. See Rubric for more details.

**REVISION MEMO: (This applies to every Portfolio assignment)** Your revision memo is a separate document that accompanies your final draft. I will be reading this first before I read the final draft you submitted. It must include the following:

- a) Summary of the comments and suggestions your peers made about your initial draft(s)
- b) Summary of the changes you made for the final draft and why you made them
- c) Reflections on your experience writing this paper and what you've learned
- d) Anything you would like to share with me about this course, the peer review process, or what you've learned so far