

### Writing Project 1: Argument of Local or Community Importance

This assignment asks you to locate and investigate a public issue in your community (Arizona State University, Tempe, or your hometown). Choose a local issue that is important to you.

Once you have located an issue that you would like to engage with, you also must locate an appropriate forum for participation in argument and an appropriate genre for the argument itself (memo, letter, etc.). Call local agencies and other groups already involved in this controversy and see if you may offer assistance in some way. You want your writing to *matter*—locate a place in the public domain for this writing to be heard, whether it is a nonprofit newsletter, a local newspaper, or letter to a party to this controversy.

You will then craft a researched written argument. You must become an expert on this issue. Read everything that has been produced by parties to this controversy. Research more broadly on the issue. Find scholarly resources in peer-reviewed journals, government documents, and other relevant materials to your issue. While you are not required to submit an annotated bibliography (just a Works Cited), this approach may help organize your research endeavors. Keep in mind the idea of copiousness—“many arguments, many understandings”—as you locate sources for this argument (Crowley and Hawhee 23). Make sure that you are defining the commonplaces of your argument as you construct it.

It is not required for this course that you submit/publish your written argument, but the closer your work is to a real issue in controversy, the more meaningful it will be. Locating an actual forum in which to publish your work increases relevance and authenticity, plus it gives you valuable real life experience.

#### Evaluative Criteria:

- This project should contain approximately eight pages of work product. A Works Cited page in proper APA or MLA format is required. You may also submit notes (from phone calls, meetings, etc. with relevant parties) or outlines to indicate your level of involvement in this project. (A rule of thumb is that this project should require as much effort as a 8-page research paper. However, you may expend a lot of time on the ground, volunteering or interviewing, etc., and your piece may be shorter to reflect the genre of argument. Your written work should in total reflect your time and effort.)
- Work should be professional and appropriate for the genre and forum for the written argument. Tone should also be appropriate for the intended audience.
- Engagement with rhetorical analysis and types of argument is critical to the success of the assignment. Employment of these strategies, with appropriate evidence from your research, should be visible and persuasive.

**Final Draft Due:** Monday, September 22, at 11:59 p.m.