

# ENGLISH 1105: ASSIGNMENT SHEET

## UNIT 2: ARGUMENT IN COMPETITION

ENGL 1105-92668  
Pamplin Hall 3010, 8:00-9:15  
Fall Semester 2010  
Mr. Gogan  
Email: Brian.Gogan@vt.edu

Office: Shanks Hall 340B  
Office Hours: 11am-6pm  
T/TR & by appointment  
Office Phone: 540-231-2831  
Home Phone: 414-217-5877

### Overview of Unit Assignments

- 1 Expository Thesis-Support Paper
- 4 Short Writings
- 1 Peer Review

### Expository Paper

#### Description

For this assignment, you have the opportunity to define and explain a “political” phenomenon and then add your voice to the conversation about the topic.

1. **Select a “political” phenomenon that interests you.** Since politics are arguably everywhere, you could select anything that interests you. For instance, you could select college athletics.
2. **Define an inquiry question about that topic.** This question should be open-ended and it should invite you to explain how #1 is political. For instance, you might begin with a question like: How are college athletics political?
3. **Analyze that question (i.e., break it into parts so that you can better understand and explain it).** So, you would take your question and make it more specific: How are college athletics political? → How is men’s NCAA gymnastics political? → How can collegiate male gymnasts convince university administrators to support their sport?
4. **Contemplate the competing perspectives about the question via rhetorical analysis.**
5. **Then join the conversation by writing a thesis-support paper that forwards your ideas/beliefs on the “political” phenomenon and supports this position with evidence.** Your thesis should answer the question from #3, and you should work to support it with very concrete details.

#### Purpose

- To introduce you to academic inquiry, wherein you pose an inquiry question within a course’s framework.
- To familiarize you with expository writing.
- To articulate and support your line of thinking about a “political” topic.

#### Audience

- Your classmates
- Your teacher

#### Format

- 4-5 double-spaced pages of text *plus* an MLA Works Cited page.
- Use the following heading in the upper left-hand corner of your essay:

Your Name  
ENGL 1105  
Mr. Gogan  
Month Day, 2010

#### Grading Criteria

##### *Purpose/ Audience Negotiation*

1. How well is the writer’s purpose stated in the introduction and/or thesis statement?
2. How well does the writer’s thesis statement assert his/her stance (as an answer to an inquiry question)?
3. How well does the writer address the class and the teacher as an audience who is part of a conversation about political events?

*Organization*

4. How rhetorically effective is the organization of the ¶s in the paper?
5. How well does the thesis statement organize the paper?

*Development*

6. How clearly are the writer's general points stated as reasons that support the thesis statement?
7. How well are particular details from class readings and activities employed as textual evidence?
8. How well are particular details from the writer's own experiences, observations, reasoning employed as textual evidence?
9. How well are strategies of definition, classification, process, comparison/contrast, and/or cause/effect employed?

*Writerly Ethos*

10. How well does the paper employ a college student ethos?

*Readability*

11. How effective are the choices about sentence punctuation & subject position?
12. Are there any spots where sentence shape (length, punctuation, wording, . . .) interferes with meaning?
13. How effective are the academic citation practices: MLA parenthetical citation and Works Cited page?

**Short Writings****Description**

**SW 5** (300 words): Choose a uniform of any kind. How might you define that uniform as a political object? Explain your definition with reference to your chosen uniform. Include a picture, if possible.

**SW 6** (300 words): Select a situation in which the relationship between facts and visuals was extremely important. Think, for instance, of a video or a picture that confirms a fact, disputes a fact, or even poses as fact (in the case of a doctored photo or edited video)—Instant Replay, Security Cameras, YouTube Clips, Paparazzi Footage; Politicians, Athletes, or Celebrities Caught on Film or Tape. Take a position on this situation. What does the relationship between facts and visuals do to society?

**SW 7** (500 words): Select a topic that interests you. Describe one definitional, one factual, one visual, and one causal argument which are connected to your chosen issue. Then, craft a few strong questions based upon each kind of argument. The questions should target the implications that each kind of argument has for your issue.

**SW 8** (250 words): Select a topic for your expository paper. How will you explain, or “expose,” this topic as a “political” topic?

**Format (Unless Otherwise Noted)**

- Typed
- Double-spaced
- MLA format with the following heading in the upper left-hand corner of your essay's first page:

Your Name  
ENGL 1105  
Mr. Gogan  
Month Day, 2010

**Peer Review**

**Due:** 10/07 TR

**Writing Conferences**

**Either:** 10/12 T  
10/13 W  
10/14 TR