

Hints for Essay 3



Make sure you follow the Rogerian Style of Argument

- It is extremely important to remind yourself that this essay is meant to showcase your understanding of and ability to write an opinionated letter using the Rogerian style of argument (as explained in chapter 10 of your textbook)
- Therefore, the essay should be written with a empathetic, respectful tone that displays your understanding of the topic and your opponent's views

Follow the Rogerian process when writing your response letter→

- State the problem or issue to be addressed
- Give the opponent's position (describe the contents of the letter you are responding to)
- Grant whatever validity you can find in the opponent's position
- Attempt to show how the opposing position will be improved if *your* views are considered

Begin your letter by...

- Noting the letter you are responding to, including the writer's name, date of publication, and the issue discussed.
- Dedicate the first part of the letter to showing your understanding of what the letter-writer expressed
- You should agree with or concede any of the writer's points that you can

In the middle of your letter...

- You should focus on the issue and how you see it
- Continue to maintain a thoughtful tone that is merely addressing the issue and its significance (and not attacking the letter writer)
- Provide thorough examples, explanations, etc. that will strengthen your “side” of the issue
- Continue to draw on any points in the issue where you can find common ground with the letter writer

By the end of your letter...

- You should prove why your side is the more sound and cogent choice in this issue
- Maintaining a conciliatory tone, you should finish the letter with a nod to the letter writer and why their views would be bettered if they considered some of your points
- Remember: when offering this “my side is better because” ending, make sure your tone stays consistently respectful and not preachy or rude.

If you choose to use outside sources in your letter...

- Cite, Cite, Cite
- You must add a Works Cited page as a separate page after the letter
- Only use outside sources sparingly: this is not a research paper—it is a personal response to an issue of interest to you
- Adding outside sources might bulk up your letter length. Keep in mind that you should not turn in more than two page (single spaced)

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