


# Week 1 - Assignment


## Presenting Arguments

Prior to beginning work on this assignment, read the assigned chapters in your textbook and watch the videos *Identifying Premises and Conclusions* (<https://youtu.be/07mehbgE5jc?list=PLB8A5292FC68E2D77>), *What Is an Argument?* (<https://youtu.be/Nq8-w2BAJkU?list=PLB8A5292FC68E2D77>), *What Is a Good Argument? (Part I)* (<https://youtu.be/AIRYrBFoQqA?list=PLB8A5292FC68E2D77>), and *What Is a Good Argument?: The Logic Condition* (<https://youtu.be/bA8GuloqV60?list=PLB8A5292FC68E2D77>).

In this class, we learn to evaluate issues in light of the reasoning on all sides prior to arriving at conclusions. We aim to evaluate the quality and quantity of evidence, striving to be as objective as we can about what is most likely to be true.

If you have not done so already, begin by choosing a topic from the [Final Paper Options](#)  list to use in your writing assignments in this course. The next step is to formulate a specific research question that is important regarding this topic. You may review [The Research Process](#) ([https://content.bridgepointeducation.com/curriculum/file/412c3873-1146-495c-9368-0a3ffc4516f/1/The%20Research%20Process.zip/story\\_html5.html](https://content.bridgepointeducation.com/curriculum/file/412c3873-1146-495c-9368-0a3ffc4516f/1/The%20Research%20Process.zip/story_html5.html)) resource for more information. So, if your topic is gun control, you would formulate a specific question, such as, “Are universal background checks effective at reducing violent crime in America?”

Once you have formulated your question, conduct research from non-scholarly sources on the internet (e.g., news articles, op-eds, etc.) that present substantive reasoning on each side of the issue.

Your task is to present and evaluate the reasoning from a non-scholarly source on each side of your issue. There is no need to take sides on the issue at this stage. In your analysis, strive to be as objective as possible, evaluating the reasoning from a neutral point of view. For an example of how to complete this paper, take a look at the [Week One Example](#)  paper.

Your paper should include clearly labeled sections addressing the following elements:

- **Introduction (approximately 100 words)**
  - Explain your topic.
  - State the specific question that you are addressing.
- **Presentation of an Argument**
  - Describe the non-scholarly source (e.g., an op-ed, newspaper article, website, etc.) on one side of the issue and summarize the key points made (approximately 50 words).
  - Present what you see as the main argument from that source. Make sure to present your argument in standard form, with the premises listed above the conclusion. (approximately 100 words)
  - Evaluate the quality of the reasoning in this source (approximately 200 words)
    - In completing your evaluation, consider assessing how well the research supports the premises of the main argument and how strongly the reasoning supports the conclusion of that argument.

- **Presentation of an Argument on the Other Side of the Issue**
  - Describe the non-scholarly source on the opposite side of the issue and summarize the key points made. (approximately 50 words)
  - Present what you see as the main argument from that source. Make sure to present your argument in standard form, with the premises listed above the conclusion. (approximately 100 words)
  - Evaluate the quality of the reasoning in this source (approximately 200 words)
    - In completing your evaluation, consider assessing how well the research supports the premises of the main argument and how strongly the reasoning supports the conclusion.

## Writing specialists are here 24/7, every day of the year, ready to support you!



- Click [HERE](https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/1414/external_tools/532?display=borderless) ([https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/1414/external\\_tools/532?display=borderless](https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/1414/external_tools/532?display=borderless)) to instantly chat with an online tutor.
- Click [HERE](https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/1414/external_tools/532?display=borderless) ([https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/1414/external\\_tools/532?display=borderless](https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/1414/external_tools/532?display=borderless)) to submit your paper for a review. Papers are returned within 24 hours with a revision plan.
- Click [HERE \(mailto:writing@ashford.edu?subject=A%20Question%20for%20the%20AWC\)](mailto:writing@ashford.edu?subject=A%20Question%20for%20the%20AWC) to email us any writing questions.
- For additional writing resources like [Grammarly](https://content.bridgepointeducation.com/curriculum/file/44cfa9c0-9498-4229-a25d-ea3589506182/1/Grammarly_Setup_Instructions_AU.pdf) ([https://content.bridgepointeducation.com/curriculum/file/44cfa9c0-9498-4229-a25d-ea3589506182/1/Grammarly\\_Setup\\_Instructions\\_AU.pdf](https://content.bridgepointeducation.com/curriculum/file/44cfa9c0-9498-4229-a25d-ea3589506182/1/Grammarly_Setup_Instructions_AU.pdf)), click on the Writing Center tab in the left navigation pane.

### The Presenting Arguments paper

- Must be 400 to 1,000 words in length (not including title and references pages), double-spaced, and formatted according to APA style as outlined in the [APA Style](http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/apa-style) (<http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/apa-style>)
- Must include a separate title page with the following:
  - Title of paper
  - Student's name
  - Course name and number
  - Instructor's name
  - Date submitted
- For assistance with formatting of the title page, refer to [APA Formatting for Word 2013](http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/apa-formatting-word-2013) (<http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/apa-formatting-word-2013>).
- Must use at least two sources in addition to the course text. The [Help! Need Article](https://content.bridgepointeducation.com/curriculum/file/45144a02-c983-4f93-ab66-980b593257d3/1/Help%20Need%20Article.zip/story_html5.html) ([https://content.bridgepointeducation.com/curriculum/file/45144a02-c983-4f93-ab66-980b593257d3/1/Help%20Need%20Article.zip/story\\_html5.html](https://content.bridgepointeducation.com/curriculum/file/45144a02-c983-4f93-ab66-980b593257d3/1/Help%20Need%20Article.zip/story_html5.html)) tutorial can also assist with searching for articles.


- The **Scholarly, Peer Reviewed, and Other Credible Sources** (<https://content.bridgepointeducation.com/curriculum/file/b2d6fb25-629e-42e1-a13e-43bf67043c8a/1/Scholarly%2C%20Peer%20Reviewed%2C%20and%20Other%20Credible%20Sources.docx>) table offers additional guidance on appropriate source types. If you have questions about whether a specific source is appropriate for this assignment, please contact your instructor. Your instructor has the final say about the appropriateness of a specific source for a particular assignment.
- The **Integrating Research** (<https://content.bridgepointeducation.com/curriculum/file/5408ee9b-e793-44d5-8a4d-e54bc6e72f74/1/Integrating%20Research.zip/story.html>) tutorial will offer further assistance with including supporting information and reasoning.
- Must document all sources in APA style, as outlined in the Ashford Writing Center's **Citing Within Your Paper** (<http://bpiwritingcenter.prod.acquia-sites.com/citing-within-your-paper>)
- Must include a separate references page that is formatted according to APA style. See the **Formatting Your References List** (<http://writingcenter.ashford.edu/format-your-reference-list>) resource in the Ashford Writing Center for specifications.

Carefully review the **Grading Rubric** (<http://ashford.waypointoutcomes.com/assessment/21521/preview>) for the criteria that will be used to evaluate your assignment.

## Waypoint Assignment Submission

The assignments in this course will be submitted to Waypoint. Please refer to the instructions below to submit your assignment.

1. Click on the **Assignment Submission** button below. The Waypoint "Student Dashboard" will open in a new browser window.
2. **Browse** for your assignment.
3. Click **Upload**.
4. Confirm that your assignment was successfully submitted by viewing the appropriate week's assignment tab in Waypoint.

For more detailed instructions, refer to the **Waypoint Tutorial** (<https://content.bridgepointeducation.com/curriculum/file/dc358708-3d2b-41a6-a000-ff53b3cc3794/1/Waypoint%20Tutorial.pdf>)  (<https://content.bridgepointeducation.com/curriculum/file/dc358708-3d2b-41a6-a000-ff53b3cc3794/1/Waypoint%20Tutorial.pdf>) .



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