Argument Paper: What Makes a Good \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Your goal for this paper is to choose a reviewable item\* and show your audience the difference between good and bad examples of that item. You must also persuade your audience of the quality (or flaws) of two real life examples of your reviewable item.

\*Note: “Reviewable item” is a vague phrase, but you have a lot of options. You could choose to review objects (like handcrafted birdhouses), or a genre of media (like romantic movies), or even skilled individuals (like professional ice skaters).

In preparation for this essay, we will study several modes, including comparison, example, and argument.

*What Should the Paper Include?*

* Introduce your topic and your goal
	+ For example: I might tell my audience that I am tired of seeing poorly made sandwiches. I want to explain what makes a sandwich great and tell my audience which sandwich chains meet my strict criteria.
* Explain the characteristics that you look for when analyzing an example of your reviewable item.
	+ Example: A good sandwich is made with fresh ingredients, which should be evenly distributed across the bread. No ingredient should overwhelm the others. The sandwich should have proper texture, not be soggy, etc.
* Find two real life examples to review. Persuade your audience of the quality (or lack of quality) of each example.
	+ For instance, I might spend some time extolling the virtues of my favorite Sammy’s Sub, then spend some time criticizing my least favorite sandwich chain.
	+ I recommend finding one good and one bad example so you can compare them more easily.
	+ Cite any outside sources you use, including websites, definitions, images, quotes from friends, etc.

*Important Tips:*

* Detail and a clear point-of-view the keys to success in this essay. Choose a topic you have strong opinions about, and have examples ready for every point you made.

*How Will This Paper Be Graded?*

All papers must be Times New Roman, 12pt font, 1in. margins. Write a minimum of four pages.

I’ll examine the following criteria when grading you:

*Content*: Your essay should include all the required information and be thorough enough that readers understand what qualities to look for in the item you are reviewing.

*Argument*: Your paper should make logical arguments and successfully convince readers that your method of determining quality is effective.

*Clarity*: The paper must make sense organizationally and at the sentence level.

*Mechanics:* Your paper should meet college-level standards for grammar, punctuation, and citations.