

Letter to the Editor Assignment

I would like you to write an essay in the form of a letter to the editor of the Courier, the COD newspaper, about something you've learned in this class. In it, you need to make a logical argument for your point backed up by facts. You should think about what you want to convince your readers of and answer the arguments you feel your readers may have against your point.

Here are some possible options:

Option 1: You decide you want to support the use of nuclear power to generate electricity. You are concerned that people don't understand the need for nuclear power and they don't feel it's safe. You decide to write a letter to the editor of the Courier making your point and counter their concerns.

Option 2: You decide you want your fellow students to be more concerned about the urgency of climate change. You are concerned that your fellow students don't see the urgency or feel the issue is just all made up. You feel that they either think it's just a hoax or that it's all part of natural cycles. You decide to write a letter to the editor of the Courier making your point and counter their concerns.

Option 3: You can pick any topic in this course you think your fellow students should be informed about. You should think about the reasons they don't believe they should be concerned and counter their arguments in your letter. If you choose this option, I need to approve your topic ahead of time. (I will be very flexible.)

Guidance/Requirements:

- 1) The essay should be typed and use correct grammar and spelling.
- 2) In all cases, including this one, one good paragraph is much better than three bad ones. In most cases you'll find that writing a good short essay is more difficult than writing a mediocre long one.
- 3) Back up your point with as many reasons and facts as you can, but don't just reword the same reason three or four times.
- 4) There is not exact length requirement. I think if you follow these rules, you can answer either question in three or four paragraphs. If you have more to say, please feel free to write more but keep hint #2 and #3 in mind.
- 5) The essay is due the day of the final exam.

Grading Rubric:

- 1) What the essay turned in on time? (1pt)
- 2) Was it typed and used correct grammar and spelling? (1pts)
- 3) Was the point of the letter clear and obvious? (2pts)
- 4) Was there good logic to support the writer opinion? (3pts)
- 5) Did the writer use facts to back up their argument? (3pts)