

Position Paper Assignment

standard 12.1

Pick one of the following political positions that you agree with strongly. Then write a narrative explaining your point of view following the outline provided below. Write a first draft in class today. Final version is due at the beginning of class on Wednesday. Neat handwritten work is acceptable. Extra points will be given for a word processed paper.

Immigration is a threat to the culture of the USA.
Immigration enriches the culture of the USA.
Immigration damages the economy of the USA.
Immigration is necessary for the economy of the USA.
Immigration creates personal danger for Americans by increasing crime.
Immigration creates dangers from terrorism.
The most effective way to deal with illegal immigration would be to: a) Cut off all social services to illegal immigrants b) Offer amnesty to illegal immigrants already in the USA c) Create a “guest worker” program to allow foreigner workers to enter the USA temporarily and then return to their countries of origin d) National identity cards for all citizens and legal residents of the USA e) Use the armed forces and lethal force to patrol the borders of the USA f) Arrest, convict and send to prison anyone found entering the USA illegally g) Arrest, convict and send to prison anyone who employs illegal immigrants

These papers will be opinion based and, for this assignment, no sources of fact are required. Be sure to follow the format carefully. Later position papers will require research and citation of quotes, facts and sources. All papers are expected continuing development of the CHS ESLRs. This assignment stresses critical thinking, quality production, and effective communication.

General Instructions

Writing Position Papers – Outline & Requirements

You are graded on how well you follow the assigned outline and apply logical thought processes. In a position paper you will answer an Essential Question (EQ) and support it specific reasons drawn from your experiences or knowledge.

Position Paper Assignment Requirements:

- Follow the outline
- Take a clear position
- Third person writing required
- The conclusion must state the significance
- Connect current events with principles of legitimate government from class reading or discussion

Position Paper Outline

I. Background, position, thesis

- write a lead-in/ hook/interesting statement
- write background on the question or the issue
- restate the EQ and answer it- this is your thesis- take a clear position in the thesis

II. Support your position/thesis with a specific example of your opinion

- Restate, explain, evaluate or analyze the citation from your experience

III. State the other side, support with an opinion or viewpoint.

- Restate, explain, evaluate or analyze the opposing viewpoint

IV. Connect to a principle of legitimate government from class reading or discussion

- Clearly/ obviously connect the EQ with a principle of legitimate government from class reading or discussion

V. Clearly restate your position and the significance of the issue as a conclusion

- Restate your position
- State the significance of the EQ
- "A call to action"

The Position Paper Yes Test

"Yes" or "No"?

_____ Takes a clear position in thesis

_____ Thesis answers the essential question

_____ Thesis supported / paragraphs follow thesis

_____ States the significance of the issue

_____ Makes connections

_____ Follows assignment outline?

_____ Thesis restated in conclusion?

_____ Problem or issue addressed, analyzed, evaluated or solved?

_____ Incorporates and connects issues of legitimate government from class reading or discussion

_____ Class participation: presentation and/or questions?

Position Paper Grading

Ideas _____ Organization _____ Fluency _____ Conventions _____ Total = _____