

### **Paper 3 –Research/Argument Paper**

#### **An argument paper must:**

- Take a position on a topic; and you must argue for that position or stand by giving readers strong reasons and solid support.
- Establish credibility; support your argument responsibly with authoritative sources and a well-reasoned, clearly written argument.
- Give opposing arguments, or counterarguments, and address those arguments.
- Acknowledge legitimate differences of opinion and seek common ground whenever possible.

**Write a 1,250- to 1,500- (5- to 6-page) paper on the subject of water.**

#### **Write this in third person. Look at Jamal Hammond’s essay on pp 74-76.**

You can use your experience in keeping track of your water consumption and evidence from the two one-page responses you wrote; use “I” for those. But the rest of the paper should be in third person.

#### **Take a position. First ask a question. Here are some to help you get started:**

Do humans impact freshwater systems by their consumption habits?

Is there a relationship between consumption and water use?

Do we have a freshwater problem in the United States? Why?

Can an individual help solve the global freshwater problem?

Who is most responsible for a global freshwater problem?

What would be the effects on people, their lifestyles, and the economy if America could not supply high quality fresh water?

Can we measure the consequences and patterns of a water shortage in the world?

Is the shortage of freshwater an environmental, economic, and social/cultural problem?

How do we know if our drinking water is safe?

#### **In addition, the third paper must:**

- **Use four credible sources.** You can use any of the sources listed below that you repond to, of course.
- Give evidence – statistics, facts, quotations, definitions, etc.
- Be accurate. Careful of assumptions.
- Be specific.
- Incorporate your sources smoothly within the paper itself.
- Include a works cited page on a separate page (separate sheet of paper with only the Works Cited on that page) at the end of your paper per MLA format. Note Hammond’s Works Cited page.

Don’t forget to ask yourself:

- How appropriate is the support for each reason offered?
- How believable is the support? How credible the sources?
- How consistent and complete is the overall argument?

You will be looking at multiple sides to whichever topic you choose.

Don't forget the five "w"s and the all important "how?" as well.

**Find a focus that you feel passionate about in one of these topics. You'll write a better essay that way.**

### To begin

- Think about this quote from the National Academies' Water Information Center: "To support a country's population and economic goals, there needs to be a steady supply of high quality fresh water."
- Read pp 67-84 and 353-412 in *A Writer's Reference*.
- Keep track of your water consumption for a week – all of the water you use. You do not have to word process this list. Turn it in to me by Feb. 22.
- Go to <http://www.Waterfootprint.org>. Here is a quote on the home page: "People use lots of water for drinking, cooking and washing, but even more for producing things such as food, paper, cotton clothes, etc. The water footprint is an indicator of water use that looks at both direct and indirect water use of a consumer or producer. The water footprint of an individual, community or business is defined as the total volume of freshwater that is used to produce the goods and services consumed by the individual or community or produced by the business." Read the information at this site and take the "water footprint and virtual water" quiz online. Turn in a copy of that quiz – with your answers – by Feb. 22.
- Go to <http://www.documentarywire.com/flow-for-the-love-of-water/> and watch the video. Make notes. Turn these notes in with your paper.
- Word process a 250-word response to the following: How do I value water? Turn this in to me by Feb. 16.
- Interview one other person from the class about his/her culture and the importance of water in that culture. Word-process the answers. Turn this in by Feb. 16.
- Go to <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/poisonedwaters/> and watch the video. Here is a letter from the Discussion site.  
"Dear FRONTLINE,  
Even if this video is focused mainly on the Puget Sound, it should be a clarion call to all states and countries throughout the world. This video does a good job on exposing the events of the Puget Sound, which should tell others what to expect from their waters. I think that we should all be very concerned with our environment, because all of the waste created will affect us and the future generations. Because of this disaster waiting to happen, we will be labeled as a bad generation, unless we turn this around. Even if i am in high school, i want to do all i can to help out the environment, to make the earth a clean place to live for one and all.  
Sheheryar Mahmood  
Monmouth Junction, New Jersey"

- Think about the following questions after viewing the video:
  1. When was the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) formed? What events prompted its formation?
  2. How did deregulation of industry during the Reagan years affect water quality and the overall power of the Environmental Protection Agency?
    - What does “voluntary compliance” mean?
    - Why do businesses favor voluntary compliance?
  3. The Clean Water Act of 1972 allows citizens to sue alleged offenders if government agencies do not act. Why is that provision of the law important?
  4. The expression “canary in the coal mine” means an early warning of danger. (Coal miners would carry canaries or small animals with them into mines to detect deadly but odorless and tasteless methane gas.)
    - To what does the expression “canary in the coal mine” apply in *Poisoned Waters*?
  5. Twenty million Americans took to the streets for the first Earth Day in 1970 as a result of pollution they could *see and smell*: The Cuyahoga River in Cleveland burned, with flames that towered eight stories high; the 1969 oil spill in Santa Barbara closed virtually all the beaches in Southern California; people had declared Lake Erie dead.
    - How, according to the film, have both pollution and people's reaction to Earth Day changed since 1970?
  6. What do “endocrine disruptors” do? Why do genetic mutations in fish disturb scientists so much?
  7. How do the products that average people use each day end up polluting the nation's and world's waterways?
  8. How should we pay for environmental cleanup? Should it be the responsibility of industry? Government? Individuals? Explain your reasoning.
- Write a one-page summary of the video. Turn this in by Feb. 22.

<b>Particulars</b>
--------------------

- A 5- to 6- page paper, word-processed, double-spaced, with the proper heading.
- Use of 4 credible sources. You can use any of the above sources, as well as sources such as articles, books, and/or the Internet, and/or a survey, other videos, movies, radio programs, television, etc.
- Turn in your final draft in this order:
  - Bottom: first draft, then second, then third
  - Next: photocopies of any of the sources you've used; i.e., any information you've used in your paper, including any of the assignments - the list of your water consumption for a week, the water footprint and virtual water quiz, the notes from watching flow-for-the-love-of-water, etc.
  - Next: self-assessment
  - Top: final draft
- Remember that this is a persuasive paper, not a report.