The Argument Essay – English 9

For this assignment you will choose one of the topics listed below that you can take a stand on. Find 2 short articles that support your position and 1 article that supports a counter claim (the other side of the argument). Decide on the most compelling evidence and write a 5 paragraph essay using that evidence to support your claim. Also provide a counter claim in one paragraph. This essay must cite your evidence using PARENTHEtical CITATIONS in MLA FORMAT. You must also include a WORKS CITED PAGE.

CLAIM - EVIDENCE - CITATIONS - COUNTERCLAIM - WORKS CITED PAGE

GUIDELINES:
• Heading on each page of your paper is in upper right hand corner, Last name Page #
• Entire paper should be double spaced, 12 pt font
• Choose a title and center it on first page, italicize, 12 pt font (Do not Underline)
• Indent each paragraph 5 spaces
• State your claim in the Introductory paragraph and take a stand, “Dogs are better than cats.”
• Be sure to include the texts you will refer to in your intro paragraph, According to the articles, “Animal Options” by David McBride and “Man’s Best Friend” by Lisa Lowe, dogs are the most popular domestic pet in the US.
• Provide a Counter Claim in one paragraph stating briefly the other side of the argument, “Although most Americans believe dogs are man’s best friend, there are plenty of reasons to admire their feline friends, the cat.”
• Provide a Separate WORKS CITED page in MLA Format that lists your sources.

Argumentative Essay Topics – English 9

Topic 1: Should schools do away with letter grades?
Topic 2: Is single-sex education more beneficial to students?
Topic 3: What are the major causes of global climate change?
Topic 4: Should schools provide separate bathrooms for transgender people?
Topic 5: Should video games be considered a sport?

*** You will have time to work on these in class and the computer cart will be available – Your Final Essay, Typed, Double Spaced, 12 pt font is DUE

FRIDAY JANUARY 10th
Evidence. Your Claim Must Be Supported By Evidence

**Types of Evidence**
When you’re making a point to support your argument, you need evidence to back that point up. When you find that evidence and place it in your paper, you need to cite your source – give credit to the author. (Jones 4).

**FACTS**: A 2014 study by the Economic Policy Institute estimated that people with four-year college degrees earned 98 percent more per hour than those who did not finish college (Jones 4).

**ANECDOTES**: Colleen Conroy took a gap year and discovered her true passion was for writing, not geology, so she switched her major and had a successful academic career (McBride 2).

**EXAMPLES**: To become a web designer, real estate agent, or chef, you don’t have to have a college degree, but having a degree won’t prevent you from getting any of those jobs. On the other hand, you can’t become a teacher, an accountant, a doctor, or an engineer without a degree.

**QUOTES**: According to Conroy, “Now, as a junior, I am happier than ever. I am stimulated by my academic work and enthusiastic about my growth as a writer.”

**SCENARIOS**: (What Ifs) Suppose you got a 40-hour-per-week job that paid $10 per hour. Over the course of one year, that’s a total of $19,200. If you could save half—$9,600—that could pay for a year of in-state tuition at many public 4-year colleges.

**CHOOSING THE RIGHT EVIDENCE**: When choosing evidence to support your argument, look for evidence that is relevant, sufficient, and credible.

**Relevant** means it actually supports the argument you’re trying to make. Evidence that is not relevant may still be on the same topic, but it doesn’t prove the point you’re making.

**Sufficient** means there’s enough evidence to support the argument. You might provide some fact or story that proves your point, but if it’s only a small sample, it won’t be very convincing.

**Credible** means the evidence comes from a reliable, unbiased source.

**You must read and understand the evidence. Choose 2 articles that support your claim and decide on the most credible points in those articles to include in your essay. Begin to develop your thesis and add your information to your Essay Planner. Choose 1 Article that supports the other side of the argument. Add that information to the Essay Planner. Have the Essay Planner Checked by Mrs. G BEFORE PROCEEDING.**
The Thesis Statement

A thesis statement is a sentence in which you state your main argument and a brief description of how you will prove it. There are many ways to structure a thesis statement, but we will work with one specific model: concession-thesis-reasons. Here’s an example:

Although opportunities to earn a decent living without a college degree seem to be growing, attending college is still a smart career move for most students.

The first part of the statement is the concession, where you recognize the opposing side’s most important counter-argument:

Although opportunities to earn a decent living without a college degree seem to be growing, Next comes the thesis, a simple statement of your main argument:

Attending college is a smart career move
Last comes a preview of the reasons that support your argument:

Having a college degree increases your chances of getting a job.

Here are a few other examples of thesis statements written in the concession-thesis-reasons format:

While it’s true that the person you are inside is what’s most important, you should take care of your appearance because it will increase your confidence, it shows respect to others, and it will give you opportunities you might not otherwise have.

OR

Although surveillance cameras may be expensive, schools should install them because they increase safety, reduce vandalism, and keep both teachers and students accountable for their actions.

IMPORTANT.

**Your Thesis Statement Should State Your Claim on one side of the Argument or the Other. You should not waiver or Fence Sit – Don’t say, “Sometimes it’s important to take care of your appearance but other times it’s not.” In your THESIS – there is time for that in the COUNTER ARGUMENT, but your THESIS STATEMENT should be a strong statement of belie