Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Tips and Tricks for Argumentative Pieces**

* Make sure your reader knows how you know what you know!
* Good evidence answers the question “How do you know?”
* For example: “Immigrants take jobs from Americans” is not evidence, because I can ask, “How do you know?”.
* “A 2012 case study found that immigrants were responsible for displacing 3% of Texas’s American labor force.” – This is good evidence because my reader knows how I know what I know!
* Frame your evidence and avoid ‘hanging’ quotes
* Introduce your source and give him/her credibility. Use phrases like:
  + According to…
  + A recent study by…
  + [Author’s Name] says…
  + In her article “The New Deal Rules,” Jane Doe claims…
  + In a letter sent to FDR in June 1938 John Doe states…
* Follow up evidence with an explanation! Don’t leave it hangin’!
* Cite sources appropriately (Document C).
* Each time you quote, paraphrase or use information from a document, you MUST cite it. Do so by writing the document’s name in parenthesis BEFORE the punctuation, but AFTER the final quotation mark (if it’s a quote).
* “The New Deal was totes awesome”(Document Z).
* According to Dr. Dunn, the XYZ New Deal agency was an utter failure because it did not create enough jobs to significantly impact the economy (Document T).
* Quotations are most effective if you use them sparingly and keep them relatively short
* Too many quotations in a research paper will get you accused of not producing original thought or material (they may also bore a reader who wants to know primarily what YOU have to say on the subject).
* Make sure each of your arguments is distinct
* Your arguments should not overlap or be too closely related
* Example: “Immigrants benefit the U.S. economy” and “Immigrants create jobs” are too similar to be considered separate arguments.
* Maintain an objective tone
* Can ~~you~~ imagine not being able to afford food?
* ~~I~~ believe that…
* ~~We~~ Americans….
* ~~You~~ have to understand…
* Be concise. Do not repeat yourself for the sake of lengthening your paper.
* Accept constructive criticism
* Please consider the feedback I give you and allow your peers to read and comment on your work.
* Vary your word choice
* Try not to use the same word too often.
* Use the thesaurus. Don't abuse it! If you use the thesaurus, make sure the words you choose *actually* make sense in the context of your sentence.
* No pathos
* Use logic and reasoning to make your case. Do NOT try to appeal to your reader’s emotions – this is not persuasive writing.
* Review and revise/read aloud
* Read and reread your paper before submission. Find the little mistakes so your grade doesn’t suffer.
* Double-spaced, 14-point font, Times New Roman.
* Header – Aligned to the left side
* Name
* My Name (Mr. Goodman)
* Period #
* Date
* **Make sure you’ve met all the requirements before submitting your paper!**
* Does your paper meet the criteria outlined in the rubric?
* Have you followed all of the guidelines listed on the “Evaluating the New Deal” handout?[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Did you follow the structure suggested in the outlines I’ve given you?
  + Does your introduction have all the parts?
  + Is your claim clear and precise? Does the introduction include your arguments?
  + Do you have at least three separate and distinct arguments?
  + Does each body paragraph have all the parts it needs?
  + Does your paper include a counterclaim and rebuttal?
  + Is your conclusion made up of all the parts it needs?

1. Only applicable to “The New Deal” Essay [↑](#footnote-ref-1)