

Writing 1E | Fall 2019] Bradley
Paper #3: Argumentative-persuasive essay

An excellent essay requires excellent questions! For Paper #3, you will be writing an argumentative-persuasive essay on one of the topics using selected readings developed by teams in our class. Your final paper should argue a point of view that the reader can disagree with; avoid neutral statements like “There are good things and bad things about X.” Make certain that your argument and thesis can be identified within the first page of your essay, and support with evidence, examples, and quotes. All sources should be cited using either an APA, CSE, or CMS style, and your paper should include a bibliography at the end. Please note that in Prompts #1–3 below, several questions are posed for each. You do NOT need to answer all of these questions; they are merely provided to stimulate thought and give examples.

- All text should be double-spaced. Number pages, and include a title page for your essay with your name, “Paper #3,” and an essay title.
- Include signal phrases with all quotes. Do NOT ‘drop’ quotes into your essay!
- Use ellipses ... where you have removed text from sentences. Use a square-bracketed ellipsis [...] where you remove one or more sentences within longer quotes. Quotations of four or more lines should be single-spaced and indented; be sure to also cite these.
- Add [squared-bracketed] text if-when needed to clarify your meaning. Include footnotes where additional, extended clarification is required.
- Number your pages.
- Heavy emphasis should be placed upon the use of evidence and examples. Cite sources for these just as you would for quotations or paraphrased information.
- Include a bibliography or references section, listing all sources used. (Use at least five.)
- Extra points: integrate one or more graphics and/or data displays (e.g., tables, charts or graphs) into your essay to bolster your argument. Be sure to also cite references for these too.

Prompt #1: DNA databases and criminal investigations

Should police be allowed to access private DNA databases (e.g., 23andMe, National Genographic), without the permission of those whose DNA it is from, for purposes of investigating crimes? Is using DNA without someone’s permission a violation of their privacy? What future role do you believe DNA databases will continue to play in criminology? How might DNA science be used and misused?

Readings:

“Should Cops Use Family Tree Forensics? Maryland Isn’t So Sure,” *Wired*, 2.26.2018
<https://www.wired.com/story/maryland-considers-banning-genetic-genealogy-forensics/>

“Your DNA Profile is Private? A Florida Judge Just Said Otherwise,” *NY Times*
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/05/business/dna-database-search-warrant.html>

“When governments have access to DNA databases, you’re right to be scared,” *The Guardian*
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/nov/09/when-governments-have-access-to-dna-databases-youre-right-to-be-scared>

Prompt #2: Advanced technology in sports competitions and records

Considering the statistically proven fact that advanced sporting technology (i.e., new materials and designs) elevate human performance, should they be allowed for increasing athletic achievement or banned for creating unfair advantages? To what extent should sports records acknowledge differences in technology used? Should sports records of one era be compared directly with another era? How should differences in access and affordability between athletes be figured into sports competitions? Should new sports technologies be banned altogether, putting all the focus on the athletes themselves?

Readings:

Everything You Wanted to Know About the Biomechanics of the Nike Vaporfly 4%
<https://www.runnersworld.com/news/a26480398/how-nike-vaporfly-4-percent-work/>

Those Superfast Nike Shoes Are Creating a Problem
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/18/sports/marathon-running-nike-vaporfly-shoes.html>

Is the use of advanced sports materials unethical?
<https://www.tms.org/pubs/journals/JOM/9702/Froes-9702.html>

Prompt #3: Revolutionary transportation technology— boon or bane?

To what extent are the newest, most revolutionary transportation technology proposals (e.g., Hyperloop, the Boring Company, flying cars) realistic in terms of engineering and cost? Are these projects overly ambitious? Would the money spent on new, revolutionary transportation projects be better spent on improving older, more familiar transportation projects like highways, trains, and airline travel? Have we been snookered by the unrealistic claims of technologically savvy businesspeople, or do these visionary proposals truly have a place in the world? Give at least one vivid example, and argue passionately for or against it, explaining your rationale.

Readings:

“Flying Cares: Fact, Fiction and the Road to Manufacturing,” *Now*
<https://now.northropgrumman.com/flying-cars-fact-fiction-road-manufacturing/>

“Don’t Ride the Hype Train: 3 reasons why ultramodern transportation technology isn’t practical,” *US News and World Report*
<https://www.usnews.com/opinion/economic-intelligence/articles/2017-06-16/3-big-problems-with-a-hyperloop-and-elon-musk-type-transportation-future>

“‘Faster, cheaper, cleaner’: experts disagree about Elon Musk’s Hyperloop claims,” *The Guardian*
<https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2017/aug/04/hyperloop-planet-environment-elon-musk-sustainable-transport>

Prompt #4: Gene therapy

What applications of gene therapy (if any) should be allowed for use on humans? Should changes in the human genome (“gene therapy”) be used to correct debilitating or deadly diseases (e.g., hemophilia) before birth? What about changes for cosmetic purposes (e.g., making one’s child taller-bigger-cuter, or changing the color of their eyes or the length of their arms)? To what extent should these decisions—if allowed—be made by parents, doctors and/or the state? Who should be in charge of making such decisions? Or...should gene therapy simply be banned outright, without exception?

Readings:

“Gene Therapy | Overview,” Mayo Clinic
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/gene-therapy/about/pac-20384619>

“Human Gene Editing,” *National Geographic*
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2016/08/human-gene-editing-pro-con-opinions/>

“Gene therapy ‘cures’ boy of blood disease that affects millions,” *New Scientist*
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg23331154-800-gene-therapy-breakthrough/>

“How Gene Therapy is Evolving to Tackle Complex Diseases,” Labiotech.eu
<https://www.labiotech.eu/features/gene-therapy-complex-diseases/>

“What is gene therapy?,” YourGenome.org
<https://www.yourgenome.org/facts/what-is-gene-therapy>