

Exploratory Paper Assignment

(from *Perspectives on Argument* 97-98, 108-110)

This paper should be **2-3 pages long**, in MLA format, and include the following sections.

Background

Explain the issue.

Write your issue in a complete sentence. Explain it, and include the information that provides background and makes the issue interesting to your readers.

Describe the rhetorical situation.

Explain the parts of the rhetorical situation that are already in place as you begin to write.

Exigence: Describe the exigence or context for your issue, including what happened to make people interested in it.

Interested Parties: Identify the individuals or groups of people interested in this issue, with a brief introduction to their positions.

Constraints: Mention some of the constraints of these groups. For example, what do they think, value, and believe?

First Position

Describe the first position on this issue.

State who holds this position.

Give some of their reasons for holding this position.

Use summarized ideas and/or quotes from your sources.

Second Position

Describe the second position on this issue.

Third Position (and so on, if you are presenting more positions)

Describe the third position on this issue.

Your Position

Describe your perspective.

Explain why you hold this position.