

Spring 2022 – Essay 2 Prompt
Sanpietro

English 102
Essay 2: A guided argument.

Your second major writing assignment this term is an argumentative synthesis of these articles along with at least four other sources:

The Baltimore Sun Editorial Board. "Schools Must Take a Zero-Tolerance Approach to Threats of Violence." *Gale Opposing Viewpoints Online Collection*, Gale, 2022. *Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/PUJBOE527571413/OVIC?u=tmcc_main&sid=bookmark-OVIC&xid=12fda07e. Accessed 27 Feb. 2022. Originally published as "Zero tolerance on school threats needed," *Baltimore Sun*, 24 Feb. 2018.

Black, Derek W. "Zero tolerance discipline policies won't fix school shootings." *Gale Opposing Viewpoints Online Collection*, Gale, 2022. *Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/PVBVDR045574687/OVIC?u=tmcc_main&sid=bookmark-OVIC&xid=cc366300. Accessed 27 Feb. 2022. Originally published as "Zero tolerance discipline policies won't fix school shootings," *The Conversation*, 15 Mar. 2018.

From the overview on this topic, "*Zero-tolerance policies* refer to disciplinary approaches through which an organization or entity declares that certain behaviors and rule infractions will not be permitted to any degree. In US public schools, zero-tolerance policies involve attaching mandatory and often strict punishments, such as suspension and expulsion, to specified behavioral violations. The infractions covered by zero-tolerance policies differ from school to school, but they generally include acts of violence, possession of weapons or illegal substances, and forms of disruptive or dangerous behavior. Initially introduced in the 1980s during the federal government's "War on Drugs," zero-tolerance policies gained increasing prominence in public schools during the 1990s in response to a wave of violent incidents and school shootings."

Your prompt: Are zero-tolerance policies effective deterrence to the behavior they are in place to mitigate?

What is an argumentative synthesis? In an argumentative synthesis, you present information as fairly as possible (as you did in the first essay) but your evaluation of the sources (your critique) will help you take a position on the issue that they address. You will be arguing for a position on the basis of a reasonable consideration of the information and arguments presented by your sources. Be mindful that your own argument will require that you make an explicit claim, present adequate support for it, and articulate your assumption so that the relationship between your claim and its support is apparent.

This major writing assignment requires that you put into practice the other skills you have already acquired. In your essay, you will be expected to present information from these sources accurately and briefly (summarize), explain how the sources relate to each other (synthesize),

and evaluate the rhetorical elements that the sources use to persuade readers (critique). Moreover, you will now look to promote a particular position, or *argue* for it. Your support for a particular position should be based on the overall consideration of the reasonableness of the argument your sources present and on your awareness of the consequences that position may entail.

This essay also requires that you **contribute original ideas** to inform the debate or enhance the understanding of your research topic. You do this by gathering information, considering its validity, endorsing it or rejecting it accordingly, and challenging those sources with your own questions on the matter. This rhetorical stance should lead you to take an active role in establishing the direction of the "conversation" and communicating the **importance of the research** to your readers. You will be evaluating sources on the basis of the information and arguments they presented, but you will also be trying to ask and to answer questions your sources are not considering but should.

The Particulars:

- MLA 9th Edition Style Paper
- 6-8 pages double spaced. (Papers who are short will have their grade brought down by the percentage the paper is short. So if you hand in half the requirement (3 pages, you will receive half the grade)
- 6 or more sources (I have provided the first two sources, and you are required to use them. All sources must be from the library database or have an accompanying "proof of reliability" sheet turned in by March 23 via email to me)
- The goal here is to present the information and lead the reader to your conclusion. By doing this, you will have to present at least two sides and prove how one is superior to the other.
- Your audience is someone who believes that zero-tolerance policies are necessary.

Due Dates:

Optional Essay 2 Prewrite: Due Saturday, March 5, 2022

Essay 2 Half Draft (at least three pages, but the more you submit, the more I can comment on)
Due Saturday, March 12, 2022.

Essay 2 Optional Individual Meeting to Go over your draft. 3/20-3/24. Email me to make an appointment.

Essay 2 Half Draft Returned Friday, March 18

Final Essay 2: Saturday, March 26, 2022

Essays Returned: Friday, March 31, 2022

Resubmit for Regrading: Saturday, April 9, 2022.

Reminder: The Prewrite is optional for this assignment, but the half draft is not. If you do not submit it, you will receive a 5% deduction on your final essay grade.

Late essays will receive a 10% deduction per day late and will not be offered a chance to revise and resubmit.